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24 March 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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PETROBRAS OFFICIAL VIEWS OIL SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT

PY172348 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 17 Mar 82 p 7

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST)--If the present tendency to lower prices of oil in the international market prevails, and if PETROBRAS continues buying a barrel at an average price of \$33.30, Brazilian oil imports should register this year under \$9 billion compared to \$9.6 billion registered in 1981.

The forecast was made by the commercial director for PETROBRAS, Carlos Sant'anna, pointing out that in taking advantage of the lower prices PETROBRAS bought 600 thousand barrels in the spot market at \$28.70 per barrel.

They continue to get offers, but Brazil will not negotiate unless the price is lower than \$28.70.

Carlos Sant'anna said that PETROBRAS did not break its tradition by buying on the spot market. The market offers favorable conditions to the country and the company is willing to negotiate and make the transactions. Business is conducted without affecting the contracts already signed with the traditional suppliers to Brazil.

The PETROBRAS director said that a considerable decline in the spot market will affect the oil producing countries. Almost all of the OPEC countries reduced their prices that were above the free market in order to counterbalance the situation. In the meantime the situation was stabilized because the large international companies and the independent dealers continued to deplete their large stocks.

It was then that PETROBRAS took advantage of the opportunity and bought 600,000 barrels.

During the present decline in prices, PETROBRAS executives are negotiating agreements with their regular suppliers. The renegotiations consist of reaching an agreement on more appealing prices. At the same time Brazil will attempt to sell manufactured products to their oil suppliers.

Brazil presently buys from 15 producing countries, but the most important are Iraq, with 210,000 barrels per day, and Saudi Arabia with about 200,000 barrels per day. Other important supplies are Venezuela with 85,000 barrels per day, and Mexico with 60,000. The current Brazilian imports, in volume are between 750,000 to 800,000 barrels per day. A portion of this oil (100,000 barrels per day) is exported in the form of oil derivatives.

EXPANSION OF REFINERY CAPACITY OVER THREE YEARS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR In Spanish 7 Feb 82 p 4-A

[Text] The country's crude refining capacity to produce gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, fuel oil and other by-products will be increased over the next three years by 750,000 barrels daily, the National Energy Sources Commission reported. The current capacity of Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX), which is 1,517,000 barrels daily, will be increased to 2,267,000 barrels daily by 1985.

To this end, the commission indicated, PEMEX has three primary distillation plants and a modern refinery with a capacity to process 300,000 barrels daily in the design engineering stage.

The commission explains that when PEMEX came into being in 1938, the country had six refineries with a total installed capacity of 17,650 barrels daily, [and could process?] 102,000 barrels daily in primary distillation, 15,000 barrels daily in cracking, and 650 barrels daily in lubricant production.

The evolution from that date to the present time has been considerable, and every originally modest industrial complex was substantially modified.

Crude processing at this time is performed in nine refineries: two small ones to supply local demands, and seven large ones ranging in capacity from 100,000 barrels daily, like that of Azcapotzalco, to 290,000 barrels daily, like that of Minatitlan.

The first of the new primary distillation plants will be installed at the Tula Refinery, where it will go into operation at the end of 1982; the second, at the Salina Cruz Refinery, where it will go into operation this year; and the third, at the Ciudad Madero Refinery, where it will go into operation in 1983. The new refinery will go on stream in mid-1985.

The commission says that while in the 1940's, PEMEX undertook the construction of the first completely new refinery with the use of foreign technology, in the 1970's, with the experience it gained in previous refineries, PEMEX carried out the design, construction and start-up of new plants with the use of 99 percent Mexican technology, as in the case of the Tula Refinery.

ENERGY MINISTER PREDICTS OIL REVENUE FALL

FL042225 Bridgetown CANA in English 2001 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 4 Mar (CANA)--Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Patrick Manning has predicted that Trinidad and Tobago oil revenue could fall by as much as 300 million dollars (1 TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) this year because of the continuing decline of petroleum prices caused by the glut on the world market.

Mr Manning told reporters after a tour of the Premier Consolidated Oil Company in South Trinidad that the trend could have detrimental effects on the local economy and the government was already taking steps to arrest any subsequent decline in production of crude.

He noted a reduction in prices of heavy crude from Venezuela and "a more significant" two dollars-a-barrels cut in the price of North Sea oil--a light variety similar to Saudi Arabian, Libyan and Nigerian crude--and said this was putting pressure on market crude (Saudi Arabian light).

"Once that starts to happen, we could be looking for prices to come crashing down. At a rough guess, it could mean a loss of revenue of about 300 million dollars alone for 1982," Minister Manning said.

Mr Manning said it would take "a little time" to see exactly what current conditions would mean in terms of realized oil prices.

It was not the kind of trend, he said, that the government would welcome. He described the situation in the world oil market as "a vicious circle" which was influenced by political considerations.

At an earlier press briefing, Mr Manning, who is also a trained geologist, said that while a number of oil companies in the country were increasing production--including the foreign owned Premier--the overall trend continued to be of decline.

He said the ministry had been considering methods to control this, other than an amendment to the petroleum tax legislation.

The energy and natural resources minister said his ministry had been discussing a "particular" proposal with various oil companies, which was among the new control measures being considered.

He did not disclose the nature of the proposal, but said it had been raised with Premier earlier in the day.

"While we recognise the constraints under which the company has been operating in terms of limited financial and human resources we have received a positive reaction from the company in terms of the specific proposal that was put", he added.

Meanwhile, Premier Consolidated Oil Company Limited is currently holding talks with the capital issues committee here with respect to localisation and other matters relating to the company's development programme.

Mr Manning said the company had an "extremely small operation" producing around 300-310 barrels per day.

Touching on its intention to localise, the minister said that the attitude of Premier's personnel was consistent with government's attitude to small business development. The approach of the company "is indeed a proper one," he said.

He explained that since Premier was wholly foreign owned it was unable to raise capital from local loans, but with its proposal to localise it was holding talks with the capital issues committee.

General manager of Premier, Mahadeo Maharaj, said the company would go public around September of this year.

The minister said the company had also been examining exploration projects and, on the basis of its new approach, had been able to identify with three such schemes.

He said one of the projects was in Penal Rocak road, while the other two were in Moruga, all in South Trinidad.

Mr Manning said that total expenditure from November 1981 to the end of fiscal year March 1983 was expected to be around five million dollars.

The company, he pointed out, was also hoping to carry out its drilling operations between the fiscal year 1983-84.

He said it also expected to produce 800 barrels per day by 1983.

CSO: 3025/1050

BRIEFS

OAS MEMBERSHIP, ENERGY NEEDS--The Bahamas is proud to join the oldest international regional organization, the Organization of American States--OAS. The Bahamas ambassador to the United States, Mr Reginald Wood says the Bahamas, acting within internationally applied legal bounds, will oppose acts of injustice and abuses because they are wrong and because they are destructive. Mr Wood applauds Mexico and Venezuela for [words indistinct] in providing an oil facility that the Caribbean and Central American countries, may satisfy their domestic energy needs and he expresses hope that President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative will take early effect to assist the beleaguered economy of the region. [Text] [FL051500 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1051

BRIEFS

SENATE APPOINTMENTS--Hamilton, Bermuda, 10 Mar (CANA)--Premier John Swan has put the finishing touches to the new look government with the appointment to the Senate (upper house) of the well-known businessmen Gerald Simons and John Irving Pearman. The two replace bank personnel manager Michael King and Trinidad-born Dr Paul de la Chevotiere, who announced recently that he was quitting politics after being a member of parliament for both the opposition Progressive Labour Party and the ruling United Bermuda Party. Mr King had no comment on being dropped from the government team. Only two of the five previous government appointees remain in the Senate--Community Affairs Minister Quinton Edness and Llewellyn Peniston, an executive with a shipping agency. Former Chamber of Commerce President Charles Collis has replaced Sir John Plowman as government spokesman in the Senate. [FL102202 Bridgetown CANA in English 1250 GMT 10 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1051

BRAZILIAN INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE MINISTER TO VISIT U.S.

PY171324 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Feb 82 p 17

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--Brazilian industries and Commerce Minister Camilo Pena will probably go to the United States before the official visit which President Joao Figueiredo is scheduled to make to that country in May. The objective will be to discuss with the U.S. Government the restrictions which already affect or are threatening the imports of Brazilian sugar, iron and steel products and alcohol.

Sugar will be the main issue to be discussed during the minister's trip because of the new economic aid plan for Central American nations recently announced by President Ronald Reagan. According to this plan primary products exported from these countries to the United States will be given facilities which will harm Brazilian sugar, which is taxed even before it reaches the U.S. market.

According to Rogerio Saboia, coordinator for International Affairs of the Industries and Commerce Ministry, the opening of the U.S. market for Caribbean products "will force large sugar producers, such as Brazil, Australia and the Philippines, to seek other markets and compete with the highly subsidized beet sugar produced by the EC, thus upsetting the international sugar market."

Saboia revealed that the Foreign Trade Department (CACEX) is making an evaluation of all those products which Central American countries export to the United States in order to find out the extent to which the new American strategy in the Caribbean will harm Brazil.

CSO: 3001/96

PAPER REPORTS DETAILS OF 1981 EXPORT FIGURES

PY110305 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 10 Mar 82 p 7

[Text] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST)—In 1981 Brazilian exports increased by 15.7 percent reaching a figure of \$23.293 billion compared to a forecast of 25 percent increase in exports.

There were several factors that kept the country from reaching its goal but two were influential: the general fall in agricultural commodity prices, especially the price of coffee which caused a low 2.5 percent increase in the sale of primary products; and the devaluation of European currencies in relation to the dollar lowering income from Europe, one of the largest buyers of Brazilian products.

With the aid of export credit premiums and efficient financing systems, the sales of manufactured products has been successful, increasing at a rate of 32 percent which accounts now for 51.2 percent in overall earnings. The decrease of exports of semimanufactured products was 11.7 percent compared to 1980, and this also presents a negative factor for the 1982 earnings forecast. The majority of semi-manufactured products such as steel products, vegetables oils, cacau, and cellulose showed a major decrease.

Exports of primary products generated earnings of \$8.910 billion from January to December of 1981; with soybeans and derivative products earnings 2.4 and 47.4 percent respectively. Soybeans, flour, and oil totaled sales of \$3.190 billion, the highest figures in the export deals. In return coffee only generated \$1.760 billion, 36.5 percent lower compared to earnings obtained the previous year: sugar--ground, crystal and refined--generated total earnings of \$1.061 billion also lower than in 1981, even though the average sale price remained above market quotations due to long term contracts signed by the sugar and alcohol institute with Brazilian importers.

Exports of cacau and its by-products also show a slow movement, reflecting the downfall in worldwide prices. Iron ore had a small increase in exports worth 11 percent with total sales of \$1.736 billion, forming part of the \$1.927 billion total earnings in the metal industry.

Exports of semi-manufactured products resulted in earnings of \$2.074 billion or 11.7 percent below the 1980 figures. The products responsible for the

decrease in exports are the cacao by-products (butter and liquor), the steel products, and the vegetable oils, except for soyoil.

Sales of manufactured products increased from \$9.027 billion obtained in 1980 to \$11.924 billion in 1981, and export sales of automobile and machinery were the products with better sales results.

CSO: 3020/71

BRIEFS

'NO MILITARY INTEREST' IN PACIFIC--Brazilia--On emphasizing relations between the Brazilian and Chilean navies, Brazilian Navy Minister Adm Maximiano da Fonseca yesterday said that Brazil has no interest in the Pacific Ocean. He also confirmed that Chilean Navy Commander Adm Jose Merino de Castro will visit Brazil, possibly in June. Da Fonseca said: The Chilean Navy is not among those with which our navy regularly conducts joint exercises. Yet our relations with the Chilean Navy are as good as they can be and the only reason we do not conduct joint exercises is because Brazil has no military interest in the Pacific Ocean. [Excerpt] [PY171320 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Mar 82 p 4]

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER VISIT--Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki confirmed yesterday that he intends to pay an official visit to Brazil next June after participating in a summit meeting of industrialized countries in Paris and in the Second UN Special Assembly on Disarmament in New York. The information was carried in the newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN which says that the visit will be made at the invitation of President Figueiredo. According to the TOKYO SHIMBUN, the main objective of Suzuki's visit will be ensuring the supply of Brazilian raw materials. Bilateral trade currently amounts to almost \$2.8 billion per year. The paper also says that nearly 140,000 Japanese and approximately 650,000 Japanese descendants live in Brazil. The newspaper added that soon the two countries will announce Suzuki's visit, and that the Japanese prime minister will also visit Peru at the end of his trip to Brazil. [Excerpts] [PY161354 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Mar 82 p 5]

CSO: 3001/96

TOTAL FOREIGN DEBT ESTIMATED AT \$4 BILLION

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Jan 82 p 4A

[Article by Lidiette Brenes de Charpentier]

[Text] The country's total foreign debt, including both the private and the public sector, was estimated to be \$4 billion by Dr Jorge Sol Castellanos, an official from the Interamerican Development Bank (BID).

This expert appeared very much concerned by the amount of interest on the debt, which could absorb 80 percent of exports, "leaving the country with an intolerably inadequate amount of foreign currency to take care of the most essential imports."

These observations are recorded in a document that he handed to President Rodrigo Carazo last 22 December, where he explained that although he did this investigation under a commission of technical assistance from the Interamerican Development Bank, the ideas and opinions are entirely his own.

The country's economic situation is analyzed in Dr Sol Castellano's report and he characterizes it as extremely delicate and more serious than what the majority of Costa Ricans believe.

Throughout the entire document, he insists on the need for patriotic and competent Costa Ricans to prepare a national strategy to deal with the crisis and to stop reacting, as the government has done on occasion, in response to the policies and conditions imposed by international institutions.

His ideas in relation to foreign currency, type of exchange and the pressures applied by the International Monetary fund (FMI) and the World Bank were analyzed in yesterday's edition (of this paper). These arguments helped President Carazo explain to the country, in his speech of last Thursday, 7, the reasons why he had rejected the conditions imposed by both organizations, as it happened.

In the analysis of the foreign debt, the expert demonstrated that the interruption of the payments corresponding to the greater part of the public sector's debt had great international repercussions, as it is the first time that a Latin American country has declared publicly the impossibility of meeting its obligations.

It is also the first time, he added, that a Central Bank finds itself unable to honor legal certificates issued in favor of their bearers (he is referring to the dollar certificates seized).

This expert praised the government's attitude in announcing to the foreign creditors almost simultaneously the moratorium on payments and the intention of renegotiating the debt. "by means of which it has succeeded in suspending or postponing judicial action against it."

Nonetheless, the official from BID fears that this fragile arrangement might not be accepted by some of the creditors and that a wave of foreclosures and embargos might be unleashed against Costa Rican assets in foreign countries.

And if the Central Bank doesn't reach an agreement with the national holders of dollar certificates, he said, it is possible that this will also cause a series of legal suits in the courts in order to collect.

Among the adverse effects of this situation he mentioned the inability of the country to approach the foreign sources of credit, as a result of which the production capacity and the employment level have weakened.

He made it known that the plans for renegotiating the foreign debt were entrusted by the government to the banking firm of Kuehn, Loeb, Lehman Brothers International, Inc., a move he did not consider wise.

He explained that any private banking company has obvious reasons to help the country where it offers its services, but "its main worry is to defend the interests of the creditors, among which is that of not getting a precedent that might in the future prove inconvenient during negotiations with other indebted countries."

The country's foreign debt is bigger than previously thought, the expert said. The official amount of \$2.68 billion (October 1981) can be adjusted to \$2.9 billion by 31 December of the same year.

This amount does not include credits to purveyors of the public sector or the debt assigned to the private sector, which must be included in a realistic computation, inasmuch as they are borne equally by the country's total foreign income, he declared.

The only available figure on the debt of the private sector was calculated by the Central Bank, for the purpose of statistical computation of the balance of payments, at \$897.5 million on 31 December, 1980. From this, \$418.4 million correspond to short term debts and \$479.1 to medium and long-term debts.

If one adds to the \$2,900 million of the public debt a rounded \$900 million from the private sector and a conservative estimate is made of the credit of the purveyors in the public sector plus the growth of the private sector in 1981, it is not reckless to state that at the present time Costa Rica's total debt amounts to a sum of not less than \$4 billion, the expert said.

This total is equal to a foreign indebtedness of \$1,780 million by Costa Ricans, but what Dr Sol Castellanos thought was serious is the comparison of the debt with the income of foreign currency from exports, which went up to \$1,017 million in 1980.

This means, as a first approximation, that if the country had to pay an average of 10 percent of its debt annually on account of interest and capital (under an optimistic and unrealistic hypothesis) the actual debt service would require \$400 million yearly. But if, under another hypothesis nearer to reality, this rate is estimated at some 20 percent, the country would have to pay its creditors the sum of \$800 million annually.

Dr Sol Castellanos warned, in this simple hypothetical exercise, that if Costa Rica does not receive a considerable annual flow of public and private foreign capital, the service of the debt would perhaps absorb not less than 80 percent of exports, leaving the country unable to take care of imports.

9907

CSO: 3010/839

MEXICO TO LEND OIL DRILLING EQUIPMENT

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Jan 82 p 6A

[Text] The Mexican Government reversed the decision it had made last October not to provide heavy machinery for oil exploration as a loan, (and) agreed yesterday to deliver that equipment to our country.

So declared the minister of energy and mines, Mr Fernando Altmann Ortiz, who added that he will leave tomorrow for Mexico to meet with the directors of Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX), in order to conclude the delivery of the equipment.

Nonetheless, he was not able to establish the exact date of arrival, since at the present time all the machinery of this type owned by Mexico is being used in production.

As the above-mentioned official explained, the problem at this moment is the transportation, since the machinery is extremely heavy and valuable.

Last October Mexico decided to freeze the loan of that equipment until the Costa Rican Petroleum Refinery (RECOPE) should reach a financial agreement with PEMEX.

This agreement will permit the adequate payment of RECOPE's debts to the Mexican Company, which amount to \$36 million.

Nevertheless the solution was not reached until last 19 January, when RECOPE's general manager, Jose Antonio Lara Eduarte, signed a commitment, by means of which it promises to pay its debts and at the same time PEMEX establishes that it will provide fuel to Costa Rica.

The cost of using this machinery will be financed over a 20-year period at an annual interest rate of 2 percent. The actual cost depends--he said--on the depth and on the time needed for drilling.

This equipment will drill in two places. The first in Baja Talamanca in the Watsi Valley 4 kilometers east of Cocolos, a place that was explored for this purpose several years ago.

The other place is in Limonal, north of Cahuita, this side of La Estrella river. The exact location for this drilling has not been decided yet.

One of the wells will be 5,300 meters deep, while the other one will be 5,500 meters. It is believed that they will be the deepest wells ever dug in our territory.

PRODUCERS RAISE COFFEE PRICE AGAINST GOVERNMENT WISH

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Jan 82 p 4A

[Text] A 69-percent increase in the price of coffee was decreed yesterday by the roasters of this product, in spite of the fact that the government warned that the increase is unlawful and that whoever puts it into effect will be arraigned before a court of law.

The decision made by the coffee roasters increases the price of coffee for local consumers from 22.70 colons to 31.80 colons and the coffee roasters justify the increase by a rise in the costs of industrialization.

The coffee roasters explained that last 17 December they submitted to the Ministry of Economics a request for a raise in the prices and that since a month had elapsed and they had not received an answer to their request, the General Law of Public Administration authorizes them to officially decree the raise in price.

Nonetheless, the acting president of the republic, Jose Miguel Alfaro, said that the 1-month period was abolished by the regulations that govern the commercialization of basic articles included in the law that set a new foreign exchange rate for the currency.

He explained that a pronouncement from the Attorney General's Office of the Republic established that a term as 2 months and that for this reason, those who apply the increase are acting illegally and will be arraigned before the courts of law.

He said that orders to that effect were given to the price inspectors of the Ministry of Economics.

For his part, don Luis Alberto Hine, member of the Commission for the Regulation of Prices, characterized the decision of the coffee roasters as an abuse.

Members of the National Association of Coffee Roasters alleged that the decision they took does not violate any legal rules.

They explained that the Devaluation Law abolished the second paragraph of Article 6 of the Consumer Protection Law, in which it is said that if a

petition for a raise is made and a month goes by without an answer, the petitioner can make the increase in accordance with a reasonable margin of profit.

They stated that in the case of the raise instituted for coffee, it is a different matter, because they stayed within what the Public Administration Law, in its 330th and 331st articles, considers the "final silence" and they state that once the arrangement for the increase has been made and a month has gone by and response has not been received, the petitioner is granted what he requested.

When the members of that association commented on the increase, they said that an executive decree issued on November 16 fixed a maximum price of 22.70 colons for the consumer, in spite of their having asked for 24.50 colons.

They said that in the new increase a price of 32.80 colons was set for the consumer, "which wasn't objected to by the clientele but was accepted as something normal." They recalled that the increase they obtained in November was approved 6 months after it was solicited.

They argued that coffee is one of the products that, in spite of its cost, has not increased in price. "Maybe the increase is steep, but we start from the fact that the last increase, made in November, was insufficient."

As far as he is concerned, don Luis Alberto Hine explained that the increase is arbitrary for two fundamental reasons.

The first of these is that the petition for increase was submitted by an association of coffee roasters, and that this type of organization cannot be of a lucrative nature. "They cannot ask for fixed profits."

He added that the regulation that authorizes the imposition of a new increase after a petition has been ignored for a month was abolished by the Law of the Devaluation of the Currency.

9907

CSO: 3010/839

RICE PRODUCTION IN GUANACASTE DECREASED

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Jan 82 p 2A

[Text] A decrease estimated at 900,000 bags of 160 pounds each occurred in the rice crop just collected in the area of Guanacaste, declared Antonio Capella, President of the National Council of Producers of Basic Grains.

While protesting, in another context, the discrimination to which members of this association have been subjected in the program for the sale of fertilizer, he declared that "it is extraordinary that the producers of basic grains have not yet been able to recover from the inflation."

As an example of this, he added, Guanacaste's rice crop, recently sold to the industrial rice plants at an average price of 338 colons to 340 colons per 160-pound bag of unthreshed grain, in the space of less than a month is sold in the market at 480 colons to 490 colons per bag.

From this enormous increase the farmer, who labored throughout the year to raise the crop, receives no benefit whatever, and yet he is criticized, without any logical grounds, to the effect that it is the producers who are swimming in the money, he explained.

When referring to the cultivation of this last crop he maintained that a considerable decrease in production and yield of grain has taken place and this can be estimated at 45 percent of what was expected, based on the traditional harvest. This represents 1 million bags, in contrast to 1.9 million expected bags.

Upon stating the causes for this decrease he said that it was influenced by a succession of rains that did not permit the planting of the grain in the usual way and that most of the farmers, in desperation, planted late, in August.

When the rains ceased and summer started early, many of the late plantings didn't germinate and the yield in those areas was low.

To the above one must add the fact that nitrogen ammoniac in the form of urea was not available in the country for the whole year and one had to make use of ammonium nitrate from Central American Fertilizers (FERTICA), which, as it has been proven does not give the same results in the production of basic grains.

Planted Area

In relation to the area planted in Guanacaste, Mr Capella declared that it was reduced by 20 percent.

In 1980, 63,000 hectares were planted, and for this last harvest there were barely 40,000 hectares cultivated, with a yield that fluctuated between 28 and 30 bags per hectare on the average, an amount with which it will be difficult for the farmers to pay off their bank loans.

In view of this situation, he remarked, it is a proven fact that out of the 15,000 tons pledged for export, at least 10,000 will have to be kept for national consumption and what happens to the rest will be decided when the harvest comes to an end and there are more concrete facts.

Mr Capella declared that the association has struggled very hard so that the National Farming and Animal Husbandry Plan might be established at the beginning of every year in order that one may be able to count on timely financing and have something with which to face winters that start early.

9907

CSO: 3010/839

PRIVATE, PUBLIC EXTERNAL DEBT FIGURES FOR 1981

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Feb 82 p C 5

[Text] The Central Bank confirmed yesterday that external medium- and long-term debt for 1981 was \$12,637,000,000.

The public debt was \$4,601,000,000, while the private debt was \$8,036,000,000. The reserves amounted to \$3,778,000,000. Therefore, medium- and long-term external debt, discounting the reserves, would be \$8,859,000,000, and external debt minus reserves, is \$823 million.

The Central Bank also reported that the average currency issue, in 1981, was 87.29 billion pesos, and this, compared with the average of 1980, which was 93,731,000,000 pesos, represents a decrease of 6.9 percent.

At the same time, private money in 1982 reached the figure of 82,048,000,000 pesos, which compared with the 75,942,000,000 pesos in 1980, represents an increase of 8 percent.

For its part, the M2, which is the money of the private sector plus term deposits, in the average of 1981 was \$307,241,000,000, which compared with the average of 1980 represents an increase of 53.6 percent.

The issuing bank added that ordinary currency operations at 30 to 89 days increased by 140.9 percent, while deposits and collections of over 90 days decreased by 33.2 percent.

The bank said that operations in foreign currency in demand deposits dropped from \$189 million in 1980 to \$182 million in 1981, a decrease of 4.1 percent. Term deposits in foreign currency increased from \$170 million in 1980 to \$188 million in 1981, an increase of 10.8 percent.

Balance of Payments

The current account of the balance of payments in 1981 showed a deficit of \$4,814,000,000. In 1980 this deficit was \$1,971,000,000.

This imbalance was compensated by a larger entry of foreign capital, in the amount of \$4,393,000,000, representing a surplus of \$70 million in the balance of payments.

Imports

According to the figures reported by the Central Bank, total imports CIF in 1981 reached \$7,368,000,000 as compared with \$6,145,000,000 in 1980, while exports in the same year were \$3,959,000,000 as compared with \$4,705,000,000 in 1980.

In conclusion, the international reserves as of December 1981 were \$3,778,000,000 as compared with \$4,073,000,000 in 1980, representing a decrease of \$295 million.

11635

CSO: 3010/892

BRIEFS

DECREASING BANK DEPOSITS--Financial resources were transferred from banking firms to mutual funds last week as a result of a reduction of interest rates on deposits in the market. This was reported, from various sources, by ECONOMIA Y NEGOCIOS yesterday morning. The publication indicated, as an example, that the assets of Banchile increased by 800 million pesos, almost 10 percent, between 1 and 5 February. The largest increase was in the Banchile Crecimiento mutual fund, with 400 million pesos. For its part, the Vitalicia Cooperative, another firm handling several mutual funds on the market, had its assets increased by 583 million, with net daily income of 116 million pesos. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Feb 82 p B 1] 11635

NEW CAP OFFICERS--Vice Adm Guillermo Aldoney was appointed the new president of the Pacific Steel Company [CAP] at the meeting of the executive board at noon yesterday. At the same time the board confirmed Hernan Bucci as vice president and Patricio Contesse was appointed acting general manager. Rear Adm Ramon Undurraga was appointed director. The meeting expressed thanks for the work done by the previous president of the board, Rear Adm (ret) Guillermo Montero Letelier and the outgoing director, Rear Adm Sergio Sanchez. As a result of the changes the CAP board is now constituted as follows: president, Vice Adm Guillermo Aldoney; vice president, Hernan Bucci; and directors, Gen Luis Alberto Reyes, Gen Julio Jara, Rear Adm Ramon Undurraga, Enrique Onetto and Juan Hurtado. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Feb 82 p C 5] 11635

CSO: 3010/892

INTERVIEW WITH EXILED CUBAN LEADER HUBER MATOS

PY100238 Lima OIGA in Spanish 22 Feb 82 pp 29-32, 34

[Interview with Huber Matos, exiled Cuban leader, head of the Independent and Democratic Cuba Movement, by Alberto Bonilla--no date or place given]

[Text] [Question] You are always saying that Fidel Castro's end is surely drawing near. After 23 years of thwarted attempts to topple him, how can you support your assertion?

[Answer] I don't mean that the downfall will come soon, but that the regime is doomed to collapse because of its complete failure. Cuban communism is like a bankrupt business. It has failed with the youth who could not be won over by the ideological standards of Marxism-Leninism. There is a wide distance between Fidel Castro's slogans and promises on the one side, and the calamitous reality of Cuba after his 23 years in government. The reality is this: a system that cannot attract the new generations to its philosophy, that causes people to go hungry, that has deprived workers of their rights, that has disappointed the entire nation, that has surrendered the country's sovereignty to the Soviet Union and that forces young people to go to Africa to kill or be killed in the service of foreign interests. Our movement CID (Independent and Democratic Cuba) tries to channel the frustrations of our people into a movement of repudiation and rebelliousness leading to violent revolutionary actions.

[Question] Is that to say that you believe that simple rebelliousness expressed in sporadic actions against the regime can succeed in toppling a state apparatus as powerful as Cuba's?

[Answer] The regime's strength rests in the armed forces but therein also lies its vulnerability. The armed forces is composed of thousands of youngsters who are anticommunist and who are convinced that the totalitarian Marxist regime is a disaster. A process of demoralization is now sweeping through the whole structure of military power. Communism has only taken hold in some limited sectors of the population. Had the youth identified themselves with, and the armed forces been staunchly loyal to the system, the situation would have been different. But the situation is one of fear: the Interior Ministry never sleeps. They say that it stays awake to demonstrate the breadth and size of the police apparatus charged with squelching any kind of rebellion. The problem for us is to turn all that anguish and desperation

into internal rebellion. We have to change a mental scheme which up until now has prompted Cubans to seek the solution of fleeing abroad.

[Question] No country that has gone communist has ever managed to get a return ticket. Do Cubans believe that they can be an exception?

[Answer] We do not believe so. We are sure that Cuba will be the first country to recover democratic structures.

[Question] Why so sure?

[Answer] The Poles could have done it, but they have the Soviet Army on their borders and inside their territory as well. The Hungarians could have done it in 1956, but they failed because the Soviet Union is their neighbor. The Czechoslovaks could have done it in the late 60's had they not been squashed.

There have been serious attempts to shake off communism, but all of them in Europe. The most serious was the Polish attempt. And what would have happened if the armed forces had decided to support the solidarity workers? The Russians would have had to smash the attempt. Now the Russians cannot do that in Cuba because although there are probably from 10,000 to 20,000 Soviet troops in Cuba--not the 3,000 announced 2 years ago--they will not be able to intervene because the situation of Cuba is different due to its strong cultural, ethnic, religious, etcetera, ties with the rest of Latin America, and its proximity to the United States. The Russians will not dare to move one soldier to save Castro. We want to create a situation of active rebellion among the people, and to get the armed forces to identify themselves with the people. You must realize that the armed forces is composed, up to 90 percent, of youngsters who come from homes where there is dissatisfaction because of the hardships which communism created for Cuban families.

[Question] Don't you think that you are identifying the current Cuban Army with the demoralized and corrupt army of Batista, which you helped to get rid of?

[Answer] The Batista army was after all an army under Batista's orders, until they realized that his cause was indefensible. The present army is not under obligation to die for Castro. Those who have to die and will die are the agents of the political police who keep watch all over Cuba, even over the army. So the political police will die, not the armed forces.

[Question] Only the political police are corrupt now?

[Answer] There are realities about those agents which even reach the pages of newspapers. A report was published a week ago about a group of functionaries of the Interior Ministry who were expelled from the party and punished for corruption. Among them was Colonel Merardo Lemus Otano who was one of the regime's most implacable torturers and an opportunist who did not fight in the Sierra Maestra and earned the rank of colonel by torturing prisoners. I can say it because I know him well, personally....

[Question] That isn't an isolated case, according to you.

[Answer] Corruption is widespread. Anybody in government or in the barracks who can steal does. What revolutionary moral is left when the structures of power are in the hands of people who do not believe in anything but only seek personal advantages? What's more, there is no secret that Castro gathers crowds for his huge demonstrations by operating the so-called mass organs. There is a lot of windowdressing to those shows. There are always people to attend the demonstrations and to clap hands for the leader. The need to survive must also be taken into consideration to understand why the people acquiesce and participate in those shows. We cannot blame the people for wearing masks.

[Question] Do the youth also dissemble?

[Answer] The youth sign up with the communist youth, the parties, the committees because they have to make a living, earn a salary, get a house. All this lack of sincerity which is now justified in the Cuban people is also corrupting them slowly. Forcing a person to dissemble is a way of depriving that person of moral integrity. The evidence of this can be seen in the thousands of youngsters who are in jail, where they are the majority. It is painful to talk about this, although some people may believe that we are happy about this negative aspect of the present Cuban reality. This is the harvest of communism. The majority of common criminals are misfits, vagabonds, individuals with poor ethical upbringing. In Cuba, however, the case is different. Youngsters like your son or mine are in jail for stealing. How is it possible that youngsters en masse can be in prison for stealing? This is a crisis of values into which frustrations have plunged society. The idea of stealing is not the one we have because we recognize the difference between the moral and the immoral, the legal and the illegal. Young people have lost the sensitivity to tell the difference in Cuba. A worker in a chicken meat processing plant sees the manager taking some chicken meat home, and soon everybody is taking his portion home. Stolen chicken meat is exchanged for butter stolen from another factory. In time, theft is an institution. Youngsters grow up seeing all that illegal trafficking and so they do not think much of stealing a pair of pants hanging on a clothesline in someone else's backyard if they cannot manage a swap with someone working at a pants factory. In view of all this, we cannot merely think about the strategy and tactics for destroying the structures of Castroite power; we must also think about the solution to problems in the future.

[Question] Let's go back to CID, the movement you head. What will be the strategy to oust Castro? What relations does it have with other exile groups?

[Answer] In exile we do not engage in competition. Our strategic-tactical plan is directed inside Cuba, not outside. For instance, a large portion of our radio programs are directed at the Cuban Armed Forces. We tell them that we do not represent that radical position which confuses the armed forces with the regime and wants to destroy them. We make a serious effort to convince the armed forces that they do not have anything to fear from us. This effort is exerted on fertile soil because the armed forces come from the people and also because there still remain in their midst vestiges of the original liberation mystique which is now overshadowed by communism. We who came down from the Sierra Maestra had a slogan: "Surrender neither to the Soviet Union nor to the United States, but loyalty to national and popular interests of Cubans."

[Question] Don't you believe that the surrender to the Soviet Union was the result of the U.S. policy which drove Cuba into a corner?

[Answer] That thesis has no foundation. It was the other way around. We could see from the inside that things were not as many people outside still believe. It was Castro with his ambition to stay in power who provoked the hostility of the United States. Many times we had the occasion to witness things that were done just to harass the United States.

[Question] What did Castro seek that way?

[Answer] He wanted to find a pretext, to have justification in U.S. hostility to seek assistance from the Soviet Union. What was the reason behind that? The ambition to stay in power, which only the communist model could help him fulfill. Under a democratic model, Castro could win the first elections but could not, under the Cuban constitution, run for reelection until two 4-year terms had passed. This is all there is to Castro's political philosophy.

[Question] Do you believe that Castro is so Machiavellian as to have so carefully planned everything since then with the only objective of retaining power?

[Answer] Believe me, that's the way it is. I lived through it and, by linking together pieces of information, I came to realize that there was double dealing. For instance, 3 months after coming to power, between March and April 1959, we began to notice some warning signs. Fidel Castro was not doing things directly. His brother Raul and Commander Che Guevara made the maneuvers, the contacts, the trips. Meantime, the pawns were being put in place inside the state apparatus and the armed forces. It seemed that Castro was entertaining some doubts about the success of a communist experiment and possibly he was sending emissaries to the Soviet Union to probe what could be expected from that country if he decided to adopt a Marxist regime. A period of indecision in which there was double dealing could be noticed during the 1959 March-August period. Castro would tell me that we would discuss things on such a date and at such a place which never came about. I insisted on discussing the bases of the revolutionary process, in asking that ambiguities be cleared up.

[Question] Let's come back to the present. While you and your movement believe that the conditions to topple Castro exist, Cuba expands its sphere of influence. This is the case with Nicaragua and it might be the case with El Salvador. What can you tell about this?

[Answer] That's right. What we sustain may seem contradictory to what is happening in Central America. In reality no contradictions exist. One of the reasons why Fidel Castro is plunging into a bold expansionist and interventionist venture is the need to divert the attention of the Cuban people. With the domestic failure of communism, Castro has to send young and smart Cuban soldiers to Angola, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia and other countries. Some of them get killed and the rest are simply kept away. In addition, sending others to Nicaragua and other sites as experts, teachers, etcetera, promoting actions in Guatemala, Colombia and other points, Castro can maintain the people at

home in permanent tension and can ask more sacrifice of them. The terrorist guerrilla actions also serve as an insurance policy. If communism is weak in Cuba but it can take hold in Nicaragua and possibly in El Salvador, and it can run a subcolony on the little island of Grenada, the communist sphere of influence has expanded and it can hold power. You must understand that the communists can mount a tremendous repressive and military apparatus in only 3 or 4 years. Then 20 to 30 years have to pass to have some glimpses of hope for the creation of some kind of organization capable of throwing them out of power.

[Question] Do you believe that Cuba has reached that stage?

[Answer] It did some time ago. Since the 1970's the Cuban people have been disabused of the illusion. The enthusiasm began to wane in the wake of the failure of the vaunted 10-million-ton sugar harvest in 1970. The crisis began to look like a scandal in 1978 when Cuban exiles were allowed to visit their relatives in Cuba. The Cuban people could then make comparisons: the exiles were not an exploited minority in the United States and, some of them said, "We are the ones who live in misery."

[Question] That disgust can perhaps cause situations such as the invasion of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, but not a rebellion.

[Answer] The fighting capacity and tradition of the Cuban people cannot be underestimated. Communism got in because many of us went to sleep, lulled by the idea that a communist regime was not possible 90 miles from the United States. That was a mistake. Of course, if you think that the problem in your house will be solved by your neighbor, you are lost. There have been many attempts against the regime but they were badly planned. There was guerrilla warfare but the Castroite army had a core that was seasoned in guerrilla warfare. How could the guerrillas be expected to defeat, on its ground, an army which is certainly the best-trained in antiguerrilla tactics? Later came the invasions which are being attempted even now. But how can you confront a strong military apparatus with a weak one? Error after error has been committed. However, ever since the days in prison, we realized that we can only count on our own people and that the moment would come as soon as communism could no longer attract the youth. This is to say that we have to hit from inside. Now, since nothing can be organized inside because of the repressive apparatus, we have to organize the insurrection abroad in three directions: toward Cuba, toward the exiles so as to unite as many as possible on the basis of some ideologically common ground and toward the international community to gain support and solidarity.

[Question] But finally there will have to be a military confrontation. How will that be?

[Answer] Look, there could have been that confrontation in Poland, but there wasn't. An atmosphere of restiveness was slowly created in factories and work places. In the case of Cuba, the youth will have to create that atmosphere and very likely it will begin to be created among students in education centers and schools--not in workshops.

CSO: 3010/1057

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMEMORATED

FL090218 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 9 March begins live color coverage of the ceremony commemorating International Women's Day at the Karl Marx theater in Havana. As the stage curtains open, a sign is seen behind the presiding table which reads: for a world of freedom, equality, development and peace.

Sitting at the presiding table are Vilma Espin, Sergio del Valle, various other members of the party hierarchy, high government officials, numerous women representing unions, armed forces and other organizations as well as members of the diplomatic service accredited to Cuba.

Manolo Ortega, television staff announcer, sets the scene by naming some of the members of the Presidium and introduces Sergio del Valle, who begins his speech at 0134 GMT. Del Valle begins his speech by congratulating all Cuban women on this commemoration of International Women's Day. He then refers to the historic background of the date and praises all women in the world struggling for equality.

He says: "We have to remember on this date all women who work in the countryside side by side with their mates. We have to remember all the women who teach our children to make them better men and women in a socialist society." He states that at this time when the fatherland is enduring the attacks of imperialism, the Cuban women are occupying their posts in the trenches, behind the work benches, in the fields cutting cane or picking fruits and vegetables. He says that the Cuban women have gained their rights in society with physical and intellectual efforts.

Del Valle says that in the 22 years since the founding of the Federation of Cuban Women, Cuba has seen its women achieve the place in society that they deserve and today participate in all political and social activities. He dwells on the efforts of women in the different professions, laying special stress on educators and physicians whom he calls the best example of devotion to duty.

He praises the women in all countries and cites those from Grenada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, the USSR and other socialist countries whom, he says have given their best efforts for the sake of the fatherland. He quotes

Fidel when he said: There must not be a single Cuban woman who is not a member of the Federation of Cuban women.

In closing his 32-minute speech, Del Valle says: "Fidel, today there is not a single Cuban woman who is not ready to give to the last drop of her blood to defend the fatherland.

Coverage of the ceremony ends at 0208 GMT.

CSO: 3010/1055

U.S. SEEN USING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AGAINST CUBA

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Sep 81 pp 22-24

[Article by José Dos Santos: "Shared Suspicions. Successive Epidemics with U.S. Label. President Fidel Castro Summons the United States to Specify If It Has Again Authorized the CIA to Organize Attacks and to Use Biological Weapons Against Cuba"]

[Text] For the third time in the last 12 months, President Fidel Castro called attention to the suspicious origin of plagues and epidemics that have scourged Cuba since 1979, the last of which--hemorrhagic dengue fever--caused more than 100 deaths.

The Cuban leader was definite and forceful in his speech last 26 July in summoning the government of the United States to define its policy regarding a probable biological war against Cuba, which has suffered more than two decades of aggression of all kinds.

In the face of increasing anti-Cuban actions by the new North American administration and their antecedents denounced wholeheartedly by Cuba's chief executive along with the popular view that the successive--and sometimes coincident--plagues bore the U.S. stamp, this suspicion and summoning (of the United States) had a solid foundation.

Blight, Blue Mold and Swine Fever

The sugar cane blight, which appeared explosively in 1979, damaged a third of the plantations and appreciably decreased Cuban sugar production in 1980, striking a hard blow to the sustained progress experienced in previous years in this crucial sector of the Cuban economy.

Simultaneously it was learned that a destructive tobacco fungus known as "blue mold" affected 90 percent of the harvest and reduced almost to zero the foreign currency income for traditional exports of Cuban cigars to capitalist countries.

At the peak moment of these epidemics, whose spread could not be prevented despite Cuba's phytosanitary capacity, an outbreak of African swine fever appeared in two of Cuba's eastern provinces, which compelled the slaughter of all the pigs in that region to stop the fever from spreading.

The substitution of the variety of sugar cane affected by the blight, the rooting out of saplings and sown fields of tobacco affected by blue mold and a strict quarantine in the areas with swine fever were measures that led to the eradication of the epidemics.

Fidel Castro, in his first mention of those epidemics, which affected two of the main items of national export, in the middle of last year, pointed out the suspicious nature of so many affected areas at the same time "when we know that the imperialists were often planning and trying to use bacteriological methods of war against our country."

Because of their force and profound meaning, the Cuban leader's words at the ceremony marking the 28th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks made a big impact on the international press. But this was not his only denunciation against possible actions of bacteriological war against Cuba.

In one of these denunciations, in January 1969, Castro warned that to counter successes of Cuban cattle raising and agriculture, the enemies of the revolution could be contemplating aggression of that type.

At that time he reported that through statements by counterrevolutionaries who infiltrated into and were arrested in Cuba, plans for sabotaging livestock through the "introduction of sicknesses in our cattle herds" were made known.

Two years after his warning, the so-called "African swine fever," which had never been reported in Cuba before, broke out in the western province of La Habana.

More than 500,000 pigs had to be slaughtered as a result of the outbreak, and there were more than 30 foci of the virus in Cuba at the time that the population was informed.

Dramatic Occurrence

The outbreak of swine fever that took place 9 years after the first one, occurred in the extreme east of the island, principally in the province of Guantánamo, where the illegal naval base of the United States is located.

Tens of thousands of animals were killed at that time, and 56 foci of the epidemic were located, which left the domestic economy of that populated region with a substantial loss.

This second appearance (of the epidemic) was a reminder of the information given by North American newspapers that the first outbreak was due to the action of enemies of the Cuban system.

NEWSDAY, in 1977, stated that the epidemic of 1971 was intentionally brought to Cuba by opponents of Fidel Castro, with the help of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Once again taking up the subject at the Second PCC Congress, First Secretary Castro pointed out that "the natural disasters, which have strangely appeared simultaneously," were the object of special attention by the government to avoid their spreading and repetition.

Only 6 months later, and equally unexpectedly and with rapid development, "hemorrhagic dengue fever" appeared, an epidemic that once again started in regions of Havana, this time in the town of Boyeros (known for having among its chief installations the José Martí International Airport), and which caused a campaign that has already cost Cuba more than 42 million pesos, half of which corresponds to convertible currency.

On this occasion the victims were human. Almost a quarter of a million Cubans were affected in the first 7 weeks of the epidemic, and 113 died, including 81 children: that was the dramatic balance reported by President Fidel Castro on 26 July, when the viral outbreak was already abating thanks to the urgent and efficient work deployed by the Ministry of Public Health.

At that time, Fidel Castro reported how the North American blockade intervened in the efforts to acquire the products and equipment necessary for fighting the epidemic, just at the most difficult time--at the beginning--when Cuba did not have available the chemicals required to confront an outbreak of this type.

All of Cuba, while it was reactivating methods of sanitation that the absence of epidemics in human beings had put aside, again suspected the origins of the illness that was affecting the country.

Glances to the North

And, in speaking of this subject, attention turned toward the north. Popular reasoning often did not have scientific arguments or established explanations, but they were marked perhaps by something often more powerful: the experience of 20 years of siege, threats, blockade, transgressions and attacks of many kinds.

Fidel Castro himself, once more the spokesman of his people, reported in the eastern town of Las Tunas new anti-Cuban actions, in whose framework it is not surprising "that imperialism lets itself again be tempted to use treacherously biological weapons" against Cuba.

And he mentioned the infiltration at the beginning of July of a counterrevolutionary group that was attempting, among other things, to assassinate him right during the ceremony for the Day of National Rebellion. The affiliation of the infiltrators was claimed in Miami by the Alfa-66 cell in a public press conference.

About these illegal activities, which included attacks on leaders of a sovereign state, "the government of the United States does not say a word, it does absolutely nothing, keeping an execrable silence," the Cuban leader emphasized.

He also announced the increasing economic blockade against Cuba--imposed 20 years ago--for example, trying to prevent the sale of nickel to capitalist countries and launching lies, such as that Cuba had bought sugar for the future and caused problems for the country.

The Cuban president said about the supposed purchase: "One understands the sinister intention of the news leaked out by the State Department and aimed at causing economic problems for our country in the international financial centers. On our part we can assure that this transaction did not exist."

Together with this, Castro pointed out the carrying out of military maneuvers around the island and the existence of plans for carrying out landing exercises at the North American base in Guantanamo, while they continue threatening with naval blockades and aggression.

In the face of this perspective, the background of U.S. preparations to develop biological and chemical warfare had a deep meaning. Some of the information and facts explained dealt with situations existing at the end of the 1950's and the beginning of the 1960's, when philosophies of international confrontation were very similar to those now brandished by the U.S. hawk advisers.

"The idea of the use of biological arms against Cuba," said Fidel Castro, "has been pointed out on various occasions by different press organs within the United States. During the 91st session of the Congress of the United States, from 18 to 20 November and on 2, 9, 18 and 19 December 1969, a hearing was held to study the supposed plans for the use of biological arms against Cuba."

For this reason there is justification for suspicion and for the summoning made by Fidel Castro to the United States to define its policy in this sphere and to state if the CIA has been authorized again to organize attacks and to use epidemics against plants, animals and the population of Cuba, as has already happened in Vietnam, Afghanistan and other countries.

Despite the fact that the Cuban leader considered that "they cannot be so cynical . . . as to remain silent on an issue so serious and essential," we are still waiting for a serious reply to the question that 10 million Cubans are asking themselves today.

Report to the Senate

From the report of the special subcommittee on the National Science Foundation of the committee on work and social welfare of the Senate of the United States (1969):

"Biological warfare is the intentional introduction of organisms that produce diseases to human, animal or plant populations. These organisms are the same as those found in nature, but they can be selected and grown so that they will be more virulent and resistant than those in nature . . .

"It is difficult to prove responsibility for an attack under certain circumstances, since the causing organisms exist in nature in all forms, and if these organisms are sent secretly, one could argue that the situation is the result of a spontaneous epidemic . . .

"Biological weapons are extremely suitable for hidden use, such as sabotage. They operate through delayed action, they are difficult to detect and one needs only a small quantity . . ."

9545

CSO: 3010/950

ROBERTO VEIGA INTERVIEWED ON WORKER-TRADE UNION RELATIONS

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 6 Feb 82 pp 3-4

[Interview with CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga, by TRABAJADORES editor Magali Garcia More: date and place not given]

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] is the scene of an intense activity recalling the days that elapsed on the occasion of the 13th and 14th Labor Congresses. It is a few hours before the opening of the 10th World Trade Union Congress which, although it will take place at Convention Palace, has its "staff" in the by now historic building that serves as a "command post" for the Cuban trade union movement. And, since this is going to be another historic battle for the international working class, we approach Comrade Roberto Veiga to obtain his views on this new, all-important act of unity and solidarity of the organized workers of the world, and we do so with the constant impression that we have been taking advantage of the prerogatives afforded us by our profession; but the interest in hearing him has prevailed, and here, with all the roughness of the spontaneous dialog, is this exclusive interview with TRABAJADORES.

And here is the first question....

Magali Garcia: What will the composition of the WFTU's [World Federation of Trade Unions] 10th Congress be, what problems will it discuss and what goals is it pursuing?

Roberto Veiga: Well, I don't think that I must necessarily answer you in the same order in which you asked me the questions. The congress agenda has been reported widely in the press, as have the main documents which will be discussed. It seems unnecessary to me to emphasize that. In essence, the congress will evaluate the deepseated changes that have taken place in the world, and will examine the nature and essence of the trade unions' current struggles. Gearing itself to these contemporary realities, and inspired by a spirit of renewal, the WFTU will outline the main objectives of the international trade union movement over the coming years, and will agree upon the most varied and effective initiatives that will make their fulfillment possible, in a spirit of cooperation with the trade union organizations of all persuasions that are really concerned about unity and with making the workers' interests prevail.

Because, you must realize, the WFTU's 10th Congress has been planned with an extensive, a very extensive view. This is confirmed by the fact that it will be attended by nearly 1,000 delegates, representing 373 organizations and coming from 152 countries. It is fitting to stress that, of the 373 organizations that will be attending, only 80 are affiliated with the WFTU. There will be present here trade union leaders of all political, philosophical and religious movements. In addition, I should tell you that most of the affiliated and invited delegations have already confirmed their attendance; and it is a noteworthy fact that the vast majority will be represented at their top-ranking level.

M.G.: Then will it be a congress implying a great openness of the WFTU?

R.V.: That is so; the congress will not be confined to the context of its affiliated organizations, but will exceed that context. Actually, it will be a wide, unified forum of all the workers organized into trade unions in the world. We expect over 250 million workers to be represented at this congress. This is something unprecedented in the history of the WFTU.

M.G.: And if this is such an extensive congress, which will be attended by union leaders of so many hues and persuasions, what is the basis for your expectation that what will predominate in its deliberations will be the unified will of the participants?

R.V.: Look, the workers' interests are identical and indivisible throughout the whole world.

At the present time, for many reasons, there are favorable conditions for strengthening the unity of action of the workers and unions. It is very important, very important to understand this fact. The course of the struggles is teaching the workers more forcefully each day that their enemies and those exploiting them are not exactly their class brothers. One need only read every day the international page of the newspaper of which you are editor, or the international page of the newspaper GRANMA, to realize the serious repercussions caused to the workers by the effects of the deepseated crisis that is besetting the capitalist world. The number of unemployed is increasing, and the inflation levels are rising. All of this is happening in a frenzied, uncontrollable spiral, which is causing the workers to react. I don't want to tire you with data, but I could give you the growing number of strikes and lockouts which took place in the world last year, and you would see that there are many; in other words, the workers are reacting and, in many instances, reacting violently. One of the features of this period is the increase in the workers' struggle; and the most significant aspect is that, in these struggles, the workers are linking their economic demands with others of a political nature. That is to say, the struggle is increasingly assuming a political nature, and is showing a constant rise in the workers' consciousness of what their problems are and, in particular, of the main causes of them.

M.G.: ...The workers' enemies are also reacting violently....

R.V.: Of course, the imperialists confronted with the struggle being waged by the workers (and not the struggle of the workers alone, but the struggle of peoples in general as well); the imperialists confronted with these struggles and shaken by the crisis that is upsetting the very foundations on which their system is based, are also reacting violently, and sometimes the confrontations are very severe....

M.G.: ...exploiters are not resigned to losing their privileges....

R.V.: Yes, but the workers are not resigned to continue being impoverished and bled, either.

M.G.: We must not forget that the imperialists and the reactionaries are historically on the defensive.

R.V.: That is true, and events have attested to it. For that same reason, the imperialists are reacting violently and using all the weapons within their reach, resorting to an unbridled arms race, renewing the language of the cold war, seeking military supremacy, reviving interventionism, applying a policy of force in international relations, fiercely repressing the struggle of the workers and peoples for their liberation, intensifying monopolistic development, appealing to their powerful propaganda machine to attempt to discredit socialism and striving to put on a lofty plane in the labor movement the ideas of class reconciliation: in short, they are resorting to whatever political, economic and ideological maneuvers are within their reach in an attempt to perpetuate their domination of the workers and peoples.

But I tell you quite frankly that, under the current world conditions, the imperialists will not be able to perpetuate their domination; they will not be able to continue foisting the effects of the crisis on the workers and peoples; nor will they be able (as they hope) to stifle the just acts of rebellion carried out by the workers and peoples through war.

M.G.: The congress will discuss the action to be undertaken against this reactionary offense, will it not?

R.V.: Unquestionably it will. That is part of the objectives contained in the response to the first question that you asked me. There is, primarily, the problem of peace. The arms race irresponsibly triggered by the American imperialists could lead to a war with catastrophic repercussions for the destiny of mankind. The world is experiencing a very dangerous period, and increasing numbers of people are acquiring an awareness of its dangers. In view of the development of the means of mass extermination being accumulated in exorbitant amounts, a world war would not, as in the past, decide the victory of one of the sides, something which is now impossible; what it would decide now is the fate of the human race itself. A hypothetical fourth world war would have to be fought with bows and arrows.

The weapons of mass extermination would not be differentiated between communist and non-communist, between the believer and the atheist or between the

younger and less young; it would simply mean the extermination of everyone. This is why the struggle for peace is a struggle which concerns the workers of all persuasions; and this incontrovertible fact implies that, at the 10th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions, there will prevail a firm intention to start up and multiply the activity by all the workers of the world and their trade unions to forcefully condemn the adventurist, provocative policy of the United States Government which is jeopardizing the entire human race by its irresponsible action. Fidel reminded us, in his brilliant speech at the close of the Second Congress of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, of the devastating consequences that a world war would have under the present conditions.

M.G.: But the struggle for peace is also very closely related to the struggle for development....

R.V.: There is, actually, a very great relationship between the struggle for peace, disarmament and security and the struggle against the effects of exploitation and underdevelopment in the world. The escalation of the arms race imposed by the imperialists, in addition to being a threat to the future of mankind, is also a gigantic squandering, and a means for enormous profits, on the part of the monopolies. This constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to economic development and to the improvement of the standard of living; and it bears a very direct relation to the increase in unemployment, the rise in inflation and the exacerbation of the crisis that is shaking the capitalist world at present.

The struggle for disarmament is also a struggle for economic and social development; because if the resources that are invested in arms were to be allocated for the tasks of development, a major contribution would be made to the fostering of the society's prosperity and to the development of the economy, science and culture.

At the present time, in many poor countries, the state is devoting to military expenditures an amount of money incomparably larger than that being appropriated, for example, for agriculture; which precludes a solution to the problems of feeding the population and of employment in rural areas.

To deceive the workers, the defenders of the arms race claim that the development of the weapons industry helps to solve the employment problem and aids economic stability. This is a big lie, proven by the fact that the very times when weapons production is intensified have been the periods in which the greatest increase in unemployment and economic instability in the capitalist countries has also occurred.

Not only has this big lie met with the workers' resistance, but also some bourgeois economists have, in a more realistic manner, convincingly proven the absurdity of that claim, and have made studies proving that arms production actually precludes making use of the real opportunities for helping to solve unemployment.

It has been proven that the arms race causes an imbalance and impedes economic growth in the countries, and that there is a close relationship between the increments in military spending and increased unemployment.

During the 1970's, an American politician declared that, with billions of dollars, 35,000 jobs could be created in the arms industry; whereas, if those billions of dollars were allocated for education, they would create 100,000 jobs; if allocated for public health, they would create 77,000 jobs; if allocated for construction, they would create 76,000 jobs; and if allocated for public services, they would create 172,000 jobs.

These data confirm the fact that the trade unions' struggle for the reconversion of the weapons industry for peaceful purposes could be a valuable contribution to pressuring for disarmament and the easing of international tensions, and to helping save mankind from hunger and extermination.

M.G.: Would not this struggle create a conflict of interest with the professionals and technicians currently working in the weapons industry?

R.V.: We think that the most effective means for reconversion could be found, without affecting the interests of the professionals, researchers, technicians and other workers currently engaged in this industry.

If the scientific and technical resources now being devoted to the war industry were put in the service of mankind and invested in other branches of industry essential for raising the living standard of people, all these professionals, researchers and technicians would have guaranteed employment and, furthermore, they would be insufficient. And, on the other hand, they would have an opportunity to devote their efforts and talents to endeavor for the benefit of mankind, and not against mankind.

I also think that effective means could always be found for a gradual process of such reconversion.

M.G.: One infers from all that has been said that the struggle for peace is a highly important task that will be embraced by all the delegates to the congress.

R.V.: I am sure that this is so. There is a very close relationship between the historical role of the working class and the struggle for peace. What self-interest could the workers from the capitalist countries have in the arms race and its consequences?

M.G.: The workers from the socialist countries are also interested in peace.

R.V.: Of course; I have already told you before that, under the present conditions, a world war, with its devastating consequences, would not make any distinctions among nations. Moreover, the workers from the socialist countries are also feeling the adverse economic effects of the arms race.

Socialism does not need war; socialism is peace. It was the great October Socialist Revolution which, for the first time, made peace the center of a state's policy. The nascent Bolshevik state thereby interpreted one of the loftiest aspirations of the workers and the people. Nevertheless, the increased hostility of the imperialists against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, and the repeated attempts to destroy socialism since its birth, have forced these countries, mainly the Soviet Union, to invest major funds in order to develop a strong military defense.

To be sure, the opportunities afforded by socialist production relations foster a greater harmony between economic development and the reinforcement of their military potential. But there is no doubt that a reduction in arms based on reciprocity in the balance of forces and security, and general, complete disarmament in particular, would afford the socialist countries an increase in their development. Therefore, the struggle against the arms race and for disarmament is also backed in an impassioned and vehement fashion by the workers and trade unions in the socialist countries.

M.G.: There are some who, when they bring up the disarmament problem, do so putting the United States and the Soviet Union on the same level.

R.V.: Unfortunately, that is so. It is part of the imperialists' campaign to try to weaken the just indignation evoked among the workers and people by their adventurist, irresponsible policy, and to justify their war-mongering action. The military reinforcement of the United States is related to the aggressive, expansionist nature of imperialism, while the military reinforcement of the Soviet Union is related to the unavoidable need to guarantee the defense of its country against the aggressive policy of the imperialists. But it is not related merely to the need for defending its frontiers; it is related to the need for defending socialism, its conquests and its future; and it is also related to the need for insuring the defense of the forces of progress and peace throughout the world. What would become of our peoples if they did not have the backing of the Soviet Union's military might?

On our visits to other countries, we have met with some labor leaders who hold progressive positions in many respects, and who have even given evidence of solidarity with Cuba. And these leaders have cited to us their rejection of the arms race triggered by the United States; but they have referred to the Soviet military might in the same terms. In such instances our only recourse has been to smile and ask them: What would become of socialist Cuba, which you yourself claim to love and defend, if it were not for the existence of Soviet military power? And we have subsequently told them: If it were not for the military and economic power of the Soviet Union, perhaps you would be talking now about a people who sacrificed themselves heroically, like the members of the Paris Commune, but you would not be defending the upright people who are holding fast the banners of socialism 90 miles from the American imperialists.

M.G.: In addition to the struggle for peace, this is going to be a trade union congress and, understandably, it will deal with the specific problems of the workers and their struggles against the effects of the capitalist economic crisis. What can you tell us about all this?

R.V.: Well, this is not a meeting of the World Peace Council, and hence peace is not the only topic that will be discussed, however important that task is. On this occasion, there will be a great deal of discussion about the workers' economic, social and political demands; although the latter does not mean that the struggle for peace is not also a preeminently political task. However, let me tell you that there is a close relationship between the struggles being carried out by the trade unions for their economic, social and political demands and the struggle for peace. No one can expect, amid the tensions caused by unemployment, inflation, economic dependence and the indebtedness of nations, and all the evils inherent in the capitalist system and in its crisis, no one can expect, amid the tensions that such evils produce, that an atmosphere of peace can exist. Fidel has stated more than once, and more or less in these terms, that without development there cannot be an effective, lasting peace. That is a great truth.

In the speeches that he delivered at the Conference of Nonaligned Nations, at the UN, at the meeting of Third World economists, at the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting, at the closing of the CDR's Second Congress, and in many of his other addresses, Fidel has analyzed in a very clear and thorough manner the tragic economic and social situation which is currently the scourge of mankind. He has dwelt on its true causes, cited its gloomy prospects and shown the only paths that the world can undertake to seek and find solutions for these problems. It is inevitable that these problems play a major role in the debates at the 10th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The figures that Fidel has given us in all these speeches are dreadfully accusing, giving evidence of the immense anxiety in which millions of human beings are living, and eloquently describing the disastrous effects of the current crisis being suffered by the capitalist system, while also predicting the prospects of its exacerbation.

While the status of the workers in the developed capitalist countries is difficult and distressing, that of the workers in the so-called Third World countries, which are not oil producers, and which have been plundered from abroad by an unjust international economic system and, in many instances, with the conspiratorial, self-interested backing of native oligarchies and corrupt, subservient governments, is unbearable and tragic. The unemployment and underemployment in these countries is something dreadful. The inflation has been transferred to them through unjust, imbalanced trade, the rise in interest rates and other maneuvers; the deficit in current account in their balance of payments has grown in an uncontrollable spiral; and they are overwhelmed by an intolerable foreign debt. Their exports are virtually insufficient to pay the service on their foreign debt, and they are financing it, going further into debt, compromising their sovereignty and increasing their dependence and underdevelopment, as a result of the abusive, onerous terms

imposed on them by the credit institutions in the service of imperialism. I do not consider it necessary to illustrate this situation for you, by giving you information which is, moreover, already well known.

This situation and its prospects for worsening have created new conditions favoring the international unity of the workers and their trade unions.

M.G.: Comrade Veiga, you made special mention of the effects of the capitalist economic crisis among the workers and peoples of the so-called Third World. Do you discern any convergence between the interests of the workers in those countries and those of the workers in the developed capitalist countries?

R.V.: I consider that a very interesting question, because the very spokesmen for the reactionaries and the bourgeoisie have attempted to lay the blame for the crisis on the so-called Third World countries which want to dispose freely of their natural resources, and which do not want relations to exist based on subordination, but rather on cooperation among states. This is a malicious argument seeking to divide the workers in the developed capitalist countries from the workers in the so-called Third World countries.

To be sure, this deceptive fable has by no means confused the workers in the developed capitalist countries, who are suffering from unemployment, a rise in the cost of living and a threat to their democratic and trade union liberties, and who are well aware, because they feel it directly, that the causes of their ills are the system of capitalist exploitation and squandering, the intensification of the arms race and the policies of social retrogression on the part of management and the majority of governments which have reduced the purchasing power of their wages, upset their living standard, increased mass unemployment at a fast pace and jeopardized the trade union rights which they have won over the past 20 years.

The policy of Reagan, Mrs. Thatcher and other governments with their neo-liberalism has made the international economic crisis still worse, has eliminated the social conquests made through reforms in the capitalist system itself and has led the world to the brink of disaster, increasing the possibility of a global blow-up of the worldwide capitalist economy, as a result of the explosive financial situation and the policies being pursued to remedy it. All this could lead the workers in the developed capitalist countries to states of poverty comparable only to those which existed after World War II.

The bourgeoisie will not progress in its attempts to enhance the division between the workers in one country and another. The need for a new international economic order that is just and equitable is felt intensely among both the workers of the developed capitalist countries and the workers of the so-called Third World countries. There should be no fundamental contradictions between the two, because their main action is aimed against exploitation and imperialism. The desire for sovereignty and economic independence of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean is combined with the struggle of the workers in the developed capitalist countries.

M.G.: But the imperialists are also attempting to divide the workers in the so-called Third World from one another.

R.V.: You see, the division of the labor movement by imperialism, its agents and its agencies is by now an old tactic. The history of the international trade union movement is filled with examples showing the infinite number of maneuvers carried out by the imperialists to divide the workers and their unions. I do not intend to embark on this subject now, because it would take a large portion of this interview. Perhaps some other time we could discuss this question in more detail. But it is true that the imperialists have even aspired to organize competition among the workers of the so-called Third World on an international scale, and to give the impression that there is a difference of interests among them. Fortunately, that has not succeeded either.

The workers of the so-called Third World, despite the difference in specific situations typifying them, are united by an irrevocable aspiration, namely, the struggle for their rights and the linking of that struggle with the struggle for national liberation, independence and development.

This struggle being waged by the workers and their trade unions in the developed capitalist countries and in the so-called Third World countries has the backing and solidarity of the workers and trade unions in the socialist countries. It is of concern to all of them, because it is associated with their interests, to destroy the obstacles imposed by the imperialists to the free trade and cooperation that should exist between the capitalist countries and the socialist countries; and this concerns all of them, not only because of what it might represent from an economic standpoint, but also because of its possible influence on the struggle for the easing of tensions and peace.

M.G.: The main imperialist leaders are attempting to divide the workers, but they are attempting to seek understanding among each other.

R.V.: Yes, this is obvious; they have their economic contradictions, including conflicts of interests which have become intensified because of the exacerbation of the crisis; but they are attempting to unite and to form blocs and alliances. This is proven by the trilateral and Atlantic strategies sponsored by Washington, the purpose of which is to become united in order to counteract the struggle of the workers and peoples.

It is encouraging that the workers are realizing more intensively each day that, if those causing their ills are attempting to unite in order to strike at them, the most logical thing for them to do is to unite in order to deter the blow and to return it forcefully. For this reason, also, we think that the dominant theme at the 10th Congress will be unity.

M.G.: One infers from all that you have said that the struggle for a new international economic order will be included among the goals of the congress.

R.V.: This goal is inevitable. It is inconceivable that, in the era of the scientific and technical revolution, hundreds of millions of human beings should be suffering from hunger and be the victims of malnutrition and all the evils of underdevelopment. It is a cause of indignation that, in a time supposedly marked by progress, millions of children should be dying of hunger.

The gains that have been made by the socialist countries prove that these evils are not inevitable, but rather the result of an unjust social system.

It is for this reason that there is an increase in the workers' understanding of the need to struggle on behalf of a new international economic order that is just and equitable. But I must explain to you that, to us, this struggle has a classist essence and an anti-imperialist dimension. The 10th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions will certainly place stress on the close identity evinced between the struggles of the workers in the various parts of the world who, under different conditions, and at times using different means, aspire to establish a new international economic order, but a new international economic order which must represent peace, independence, cooperation, democracy and equality, which will finally eradicate the relations based on positions of strength and which, of course, will destroy the influence of imperialist domination and its multinational companies on the future of peoples.

M.G.: All of this is related to the statements made by Comrade Fidel at the UN.

R.V.: Many of the statistics attesting to the fabulous profits made by the multinational companies, most especially in the countries of the so-called Third World, eloquently explain their predatory nature and the imperialists' plundering of our nations.

The oppressive situation being experienced by millions of human beings demands a combating of the essential evils, in other words, the structures of imperialist domination, and requires that, in that battle, all the workers of the world and their trade unions foster the mobilization of the entire international community. It was in that direction that the proposals made by Comrade Fidel Castro at the 34th Session of the United Nations General Assembly were aimed precisely, most particularly those directed toward the creation of a fund to be used to finance the battle against underdevelopment.

M.G.: And how have the imperialists reacted to that demand from the nations?

E.V.: Well, there is such a strong demand in the world for a new international economic order that not even the imperialist leaders can ignore it any longer. They have been forced to accept the possibility of negotiations on these matters. However, the maneuvers in which they are engaging to prevent these demands from leading to concrete measures are obvious. They are trying to use the theme of a "new order" to impose social retrogression, to strengthen the power of the multinational companies and to use their financial and monetary resources for the purpose of reviving their system of exploitation. I should add that the struggle for a new economic order that is just and equitable, in the terms wherein we conceive of it, should contribute to the unity of the workers and their trade unions. That is a common demand of concern to everyone. The views of the workers in the underdeveloped capitalist countries, the developed capitalist countries and the socialist countries are fully identified in that objective.

M.G.: It is obvious that the workers have many common interests, despite the different levels of development and different social systems under which they are living.

R.V.: Yes, the community of interests is great, and contains many expressions of solidarity within itself. And let me tell you that the role of the trade unions in the world is becoming increasingly great. Furthermore, major qualitative changes in their struggles are becoming evident. Increasingly every day, the unions are linking their immediate demands with the national demands of their people (I think that I have told you this before, but it is not pointless to repeat it); and, every day, the unions are directing themselves toward the struggle for a democratic solution to the crisis, toward the search for structural reforms in the society and toward changes that address their interests, against the yoke of the multinational companies and the policies aimed against the workers. The unions desire and demand that they be given participation in the development and direction of the society, and they are incorporating into their goals the struggle for liberation, independence, liberty and democracy.

It is true that there are within the labor movement forces which are attempting to divert it from that tendency, and trying to lead it along the path of class collaboration; but those forces are becoming weaker every day, and their diversionary effort is also becoming more difficult for them every day, because the oppressed masses are pressuring from below, and do not want "mercurochrome band-aids" which, in the long run, are of no use for curing their deep wounds but, on the contrary, contribute to deepening and infecting them. The masses want at least the medicine that will help to cure them; although there are some, such as those included in our Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, who, in view of their experience, are aware that what is critical and definitive is to apply preventive medicine that will finally preclude the possibility of such wounds' appearing.

M.G.: What you mean by the latter is the definitive eradication of capitalism.

R.V.: Neither more nor less. Capitalism caused the working class to be born; and time will elapse, I don't know how much, there will be battles, I don't know how many, there will be great progress, and there will be a few setbacks; but, in the long run, the working class will bury capitalism. That is an inexorable law of history.

M.G.: Veiga, I promise not to interrupt you again.....

R.V.: I shall conclude by reaffirming my conviction that imperialism will be incapable of deterring the people's struggle. Socialism is being built on four continents; in the capitalist countries, the workers are engaged in bloody battles, and the national liberation struggles are becoming more extensive.

The exploited workers and oppressed peoples are acquiring an awareness of the need for attaining their economic independence, in order to consolidate their political sovereignty. They want to be the owners of their resources, and to

manage them freely for the purpose of overcoming the ills which beset them. They do not want to continue being the victims of imperialism and of its crises; and they aspire to a steadfast, diversified and balanced cooperation among nations. I should not fail to repeat to you that all these just demands have the backing of the workers and the people of the socialist countries.

For all these reasons and many others that would make this interview endless, we are of the opinion that the 10th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions will be marked by a unifying atmosphere. The problems that I have mentioned are common concerns of mankind, and, in order to solve them, the international unity of the trade unions is essential.

The pressing effect of the actual conditions will help all the trade union leaders in the world to realize, of necessity, that they are children of the same class, and that, nowadays, no workers in any country can dispense with the enormous force of unity and solidarity in their struggles.

Ideological differences should not constitute insurmountable obstacles to trade union unity on the international level. I observe heads of state, as in the case of the nonaligned nations, representing different social systems, who manage to find a common platform for negotiations and even for agreements. Why can't the representatives of the working class and the trade unions do so?

M.G.: A final question that is not directly related to the subject discussed thus far, but one that I consider interesting. How is the Cuban labor movement evoking the image of Lazaro Pena at a time of such historic significance to the Cuban trade union movement?

R.V.: Lazaro is an inseparable part of the history of the WFTU. Chairing the Cuban delegation to the Paris Congress (1945), he was one of the champions of that gigantic labor movement which distinguished itself in action on behalf of peace, social progress and support for democracy.

The subsequent congresses experienced the active presence of our beloved leader, and served to elect him to the top-ranking leadership organs of the WFTU, in whose Bureau he remained until the time of his death. His outstanding career as an international labor leader is unquestionable, but probing deeply into this area must be left for another occasion. If we have commented on it, it was (and apropos of the question) to point out how important it would be for the Cuban labor movement to have, once again, his experience, his advice and his enormous capacity for coping with complex situations and emerging victorious, without falling short of the strong principles born of his communist, classist training.

At times such as this, to say that Lazaro Pena is present among us is a comment that assumes new nuances and becomes more accurate. Those of us who worked together with him, those of us who saw him act brilliantly without fear in the debating, and those of us who were his followers and who accompanied him (on international scenes as well), feel very deeply the vast

responsibility involved in acting on behalf of the international trade union movement to which Lazaro devoted enormous efforts, thereby winning admiration and respect for our Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions.

M.G.: Thank you very much, Comrade Veiga, on behalf of the group from TRABAJADORES.

R.V.: Well, now it is my turn to ask a question: What are you going to do to back the 10th Congress of the WFTU, and to keep our workers regularly informed on its deliberations?

M.G.: Not what are we going to do, but what are we doing...because we have been working on the congress for many days. We have not ceased to reflect everything that is occurring, both nationally and internationally, in connection with our great event. And when the 10th Congress is under way, we can tell you in advance that we shall virtually "record the minutes" on everything that takes place there, as faithful evidence of this great battle to be waged by the world's trade unionists on behalf of unity. Everything that you have so accurately explained to us commits us even more. We promise not to disappoint you.

R.V.: Now, many thanks to you for having given us the opportunity to hold a dialog on these points which we consider to be of great concern to our workers, and to the people of Cuba as a whole. Again, thank you.

2909

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MORA HERMAN COMMENTS ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Indians Join Guatemalan Rebellion

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Sep 81 p 2

[Article by Carlos Mora Herman: "The Indian Awakening"]

[Text] Youthful guerrillas with automatic weapons speak to natives at the small market place of San Pedro de la Laguna on the shore of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala.

One speaks in Spanish while the other two translate, the first to the Quiche language the second to the Tzutuhil.

A number of children surround the young guerrillas and touch their weapons while native women with their woven shawls and men with straw hats listen to an account of the army's brutalities, the aerial bombing of villages of the Sierra de Parazquin and the excesses of the death squadrons and paramilitary forces.

The people gradually take courage and begin to chat with the young guerrillas. Some tell about their hardships and sufferings, the exploitation of which they are victims. There are Indians among the guerrillas, which heretofore was not often seen in Guatemala. The entire event lasts scarcely 2 hours. The withdrawal occurs in an orderly manner. Not a single shot has been fired.

The above scene, frequently occurring in Guatemala, contains a new element which is seriously worrying Guatemalan conservatives and causing many to lose sleep.

It is the appearance of the Indian as combatant. Indians represent 59.7 percent of the total population and 80 percent of the rural segment.

Among other things, Guatemala is a country with a high level of illiteracy (About 80 percent). Unemployment is chronic and more than 100 out of each 1,000 children born in the country die.

A UN observer says that Guatemalan Indians are as poor as the poorest inhabitants of Bangladesh, Somalia and Haiti.

Descendants of the Mayas, those Indians speak about 23 languages and approximately 100 dialects. Each year some 500,000 come down from the mountains to the southern lowlands and the coast. In the north, the best land has been taken over by army officers and wealthy families, both attracted by that area's petroleum possibilities.

A total of 70 percent of the arable land is in the hands of 2 percent of the people.

The best land is devoted to export crops such as coffee, cotton and sugar. Vast fortunes have been accumulated with those products, with the Indian being paid starvation wages.

There are some very sad pages in Guatemala's history. In May 1978, many natives came to Panzos to meet with an agricultural official.

The official refused to meet with them and soldiers fired upon them leaving 102 men, women and children dead.

Toward the middle of January 1980, a group of natives from Quiche Province came to Guatemala City to request an investigation regarding the assassination and detention of dozens of peasants in Uspantan.

No matter how hard they tried, no one received them or paid any attention to their requests, and, on 31 January at 1100 hours, 27 of them, accompanied by students, occupied the Spanish Embassy and took 15 persons who happened to be there hostage.

The government's repressive forces surrounded the embassy. The ambassador, Maximo Cajal y Lopez, telephoned twice to the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Relations and asked that the troops be withdrawn inasmuch as the occupants had acted without violence and an agreement had even been reached with them.

But that made no difference, and dictator Romeo Lucas ordered an attack on the diplomatic headquarters in question which was subsequently demolished; 39 persons were killed, including some Guatemalan politicians who were just there on a visit.

The Indians learned a painful lesson: they sent their representatives to ask for justice and the representatives came back in coffins. Now they would not return to demand their rights without weapons in their hands.

Since that time, the Indians have given greater support to the guerrillas and have participated with them as combatants. And also, since then, repression against the Indians has increased.

Shortly after those events, on 14 February 1980, the Declaration of Iximche was issued which reads as follows:

"To put an end to all the bad deeds of the descendants of the invaders and their regime, we must fight side by side...we must strengthen unity and

solidarity between the natives and the poor Ladinos inasmuch as the solidarity of the popular movement with the native struggle has been sealed with their lives at the Spanish Embassy. The sacrifice of those lives brings us closer than ever to a new society, to an Indian awakening...Let us struggle so that our Indian people, as such, can develop their culture, badly damaged by the criminal invaders; for an equitable economy in which no one exploits others; so that the land may again be community property as it was during the time of our ancestors; for a people without discrimination; to put an end to all repression, torture, assassination and massacres; to put an end to the struggle for housing; to provide equal employment opportunity for all; to stop being used as objects of tourism; for the equitable distribution and utilization of our natural resources."

And this is a reality which is frightening all those in power in Guatemala.

For those officials the Indian's awakening is like a death sentence.

North-South Dialogue

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jan 82 p 2

[Article by Carlos Mora Herman]

[Text] Various persons met in Quito, Ecuador at the end of November to analyze "The North-South Dialogue Communication."

The first day of sessions was devoted to the meeting held in Cancun, Mexico, and one of the participants pointed out that this conclave could be compared to an attempt between rabbits and lions to reach an agreement on equal terms, a thing which is impossible, for lions are lions and do not have the slightest intention of becoming rabbits.

Cancun was largely a victory for the aggressive policy President Ronald Reagan has put into practice with regard to Latin America.

Reagan saw to it that Cuba did not attend that meeting and made it extremely clear that, to arrive at the implementation of cooperative measures between the so-called poor south and opulent north, it would be necessary to maintain the status of the capitalist system and provide greater facilities for private initiative and foreign investment on the continent.

When the subject of communication within the framework of the so-called North-South Dialogue was brought up at the Quito meeting, it became obvious that the New International Information Order (NOII) is a measure difficult to implement.

The inequality of information presently existing worldwide can be reduced only through an effort by developing countries to establish national organization, train professional personnel and create informational networks.

It is generally true that large news media facilities (press, radio, TV, movies), both in the north and south with very few exceptions, are controlled by capitalist organizations and serve the same masters and the same interests.

Historically, the news media have reflected the interests of specific social classes.

For example, if we analyze the process of developing those media in the United States, we discover that the process was accompanied by the emergence of financial groups which became the owners and shareholders of the principal news media firms: Morgan, Harriman, Rockefeller, Pew, Dupont, Mellon, Astor and Lamont; the giants of the great American press and, later, of radio and television: Time Incorporated, the magazines of TIME and FORTUNE: NEWSWEEK, SATURDAY EVENING POST, COLLIER'S, THE NEW YORK TIMES, READER'S DIGEST, LIFE and the ABC and NBC networks. Later would come the newspaper consortiums of Hearst, Howards, McCormick, Patterson and Knight.

Thus, while in the United States and France the process went from industry and finance to the news media, in Latin America, generally speaking, the process has been that of the news media connected with agrarian oligarchies and then proceeding to commerce, industry and finance.

In all the discussions and theses generated by an examination of the NOII, we see the emergences of the formula of the so-called "alternative press" or "Alternate Information."

To a certain extent, that alternate information hopes to create a field of action in confrontation with the dominant social system.

Historically, what gave rise to those alternative efforts was the fact that, where the news media were in the hands of the powerful, an attempt was made to impede the progress of justice and truth.

The CORREO DEL ORINOCO, a newspaper which appeared in Venezuela in 1818, published upon instructions from Simon Bolivar in Angostura to explain the principles of independence and provide information on the progress of the war, its problems and victories, can be considered the first "alternate press" attempt on the continent.

Let us not forget that Bolivar said that "printed matter is as important as supplies" and, therefore, a printing press was part of the logistics of his era.

We have other examples of that type of press in LA GACETA DE BUENOS AIRES, of Mariano Moreno, EL DESPERTADOR AMERICANO, of Father Hidalgo in Mexico, EL CUBANO LIBRE, publication of the struggle started by Carlos Manuel de Cespedes in La Demajagua (1868), and the newspaper, PATRIA, founded by Jose Marti in 1892, in Cuba's case.

We are presently aware of the fact that transnational news service, especially those of the United States, distort and manipulate the news to suit their interests, whitewashing what is true or vice versa.

In a paper termed "secret" by its authors, known as the "Sante Fe Document" and drawn up in May 1980 by a group of people at the request of the Inter-American Security Council, intended subsequently to become the basis of

President Reagan's foreign policy, it is stated without beating about the bush that the United States is to resort to destabilization through false information and the polarization of governments which oppose imperial designs.

Moreover, the NOII is an aspiration which cannot be isolated from the broad necessities of developing countries.

The NOII must be accompanied by a New International Economic Order and, if it is hoped that it will be really effective and just, by a new social order which will open the way to the complete attainment of sovereignty and the people's right to true self-determination.

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MIRET DISCUSSES SPARE PARTS, REPAIR POLICIES

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 8 Feb 82 pp 4-5

[Speech by Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the party's Politburo, at the closing ceremony of the First National Forum on the Manufacture and Renovation of Spare Parts, which met from 1 to 3 February in the Palacio de las Convenciones]

[Text] I would like to begin my address by expressing well-deserved congratulations to the comrades who have been awarded prizes for the magnificent papers that they presented at this forum.

We are here today at the closing session of the First National Forum on Spare Parts, a wideranging event that has brought together the efforts and experiences of thousands upon thousands of men and women throughout our country who have created the foundations and the conditions for its success.

The forum is the culmination of a lengthy process begun by our workers as a revolutionary response to the indications of Comrade Fidel and to the resolutions of the Second Party Congress, in relation to the spare parts situation.

It was preceded by an impressive rally by the masses of experienced workers and technicians in these spheres of production, caught up in a contagious spirit of combativity and creativity, as well as by continued hard work by the Forum Organizing Committee, which was set up in April of last year and has labored virtually without rest since then.

Throughout 1981 and up to last 15 January, numerous events relating to spare parts were held as part of the preparatory stage of the forum. In all, 2,825 assemblies were staged, and 2,807 of them were held in factories, shops, municipalities and provinces. Eight were organized by specialties: KTP combines, collection centers, "Fundicion Amistad," molds and dies, thermo-electric plants, interoffice meetings, salvaging of parts and industrial valves. The remaining 10 were staged by the following central government agencies: MITRANS [Ministry of Transportation]-MICOM [Ministry of Commerce], MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry], MINAL [Ministry of the Food Industry], MINBAS [Ministry of Basic Industry], MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces], MINAGRI [Ministry of Agriculture], MICONS [Ministry of Construction], MINIL [Ministry of Light Industry], SIME [Steelworking Industry] and MIP.

No fewer than 96,030 workers took part in these meetings or specialized assemblies. To give an idea of the importance of these meetings, I could point out that 1,567 workers took part in the First National Meeting of Producers and Designers of Molds, Dies, Devices and Tools, from the low-level meetings to the national event. As a result of this National Meeting, more than 50 measures were proposed for the purpose of spreading the know-how and experience that these workers have acquired and of helping to resolve the problems of our engineering industry.

With respect to the KTP combines and collection centers, the meetings began with an analysis from the cane-growing districts and the production factories for these pieces of equipment and served as a sort of bridge between the direct manufacturers and their users, in a manner of speaking. These meetings among the rank-and-file, in enterprises and provinces and at the national level, brought 31,000 sugar industry and metallurgical workers face-to-face in fraternal, substantial gatherings.

All of their accumulated experience was brought together in a joint analysis and is now part of a technical-cultural body of knowledge that belongs to us all and that enables us to develop and enhance these important means of production.

These events and activities have enabled us to identify the most experienced workers and the most skilled technicians and engineers in each factory and shop. These workers have been carefully selected by their respective work groups, and there are now 278 of them. Including the workers chosen for this forum, this number has risen to more than 800, and there is a chance to boost it much further with the 2,000 precandidates who were chosen for this event. These workers are a true vanguard in this strong technical and revolutionary movement.

These are the comrades who to a great extent guarantee that spare parts will be salvaged and produced.

Once these outstanding workers were discovered, they had to be brought together in work groups so that each one could contribute his know-how and experience, which has enabled many problems to be resolved.

It is for this reason that we must stress the importance of using work groups, in other words, bringing various trades and specialties together when it comes time to analyze the complex problems that our lines of production face.

For example, this sound work procedure enabled us to resolve a very serious problem that we had for several years in the Moa plant because of the breakage of the "washing drum." This piece of equipment costs more than \$400,000, and even if we decided to purchase it in the capitalist area, it would have taken us more than a year to buy it and install it in the factory. In any case, not only did a team of several Moa technicians

and technicians from other national industries manufacture the drum in Cuba, but it took only 5 months from the time the proposal was submitted to the installation of the equipment in Moa.

Another example is the rubber seals on the big fuel tanks that we have now begun producing in Cuba. These seals had to be produced in record time, and our self-sacrificing workers and technicians accomplished this with incomparable speed. These seals cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000 each on the capitalist market. Another example is the joint efforts that we want to make to come up with solutions to the problem of maintaining the buses that provide transportation in Havana. This morning I visited the Parts Exhibition of the Transportation Ministry and I am certain that the participants at the forum who visited it too will make suggestions and proposals. According to preliminary data supplied by Julio Cesar, 85 comrades have proposed solutions to more than 700 problem areas, particularly tires, springs, pinion joints and pins.

I do not think that I have to list the many other instances in which just by working together, skilled technicians have contributed many important solutions. This ought to be one of our basic working methods.

The various meetings were organized for the purpose, among others, of backing up the guidelines set forth by our party with regard to the problems involving spare parts, providing incentives to the workers, technicians and engineers involved in this activity and publicizing their accomplishments and experience.

Thousands of papers were submitted and discussed at these meetings, and hundreds of them were deemed worthy of approval.

Organizing them by territory, specialty, ministry and union has benefited our industries and the process of recovering and producing spare parts tremendously, because they served as the groundwork for dialogue, discussion, a concrete comparison of technical approaches and the exchange of the information and experience gained over many long years. A great many workers, engineers and technicians met their colleagues in other industries, in other specialties, and by getting to know each other and realizing that they have a common concern and commitment to resolve the problems plaguing us, they have gradually jelled in a strong mass movement that is focusing on a sensitive nerve of our economy.

A major event during the preparatory phase of the forum, and which requires special mention, is the National Exhibition of Spare Parts. Sponsored by 12 State organizations and with the valuable cooperation of the DOR [Revolutionary Orientation Department] of the party's Central Committee, it has been showing our people not only the parts that we produce but also the parts that we still do not produce and that might stimulate the creative manufacturing capacity of our specialists and enterprises.

The exhibition represents a faithful summary of the various provincial and sector exhibitions and has been attended by tens of thousands of individuals who are particularly interested in this subject, which bears out its quality and responsiveness.

In addition to helping create a suitable climate for this forum, the exhibition was also conceived as the forerunner of a technological and production information center for this sphere as a whole, which will make a substantial contribution to the exchange of technologies and to rationalization and standardization in this area.

The forum was attended by a total of 820 comrades, 605 of them delegates representing more than 50,000 workers who took part in 432 preparatory assemblies. In addition, 100 journalists participated. The delegates were chosen or invited in consideration of their distinguished work and specific contributions to the salvaging and manufacture of spare parts. Five-hundred and seventy-three of them work in factories and shops; 292 are skilled workers and the rest are intermediate technicians and university professors. Five are national Labor Heroes, 33 are National Union Vanguards, 257 are Outstanding Innovators and nationwide award-winners. Fifty FAR delegates also took part.

Most of the participants are skilled workers, technologists and upper-level technicians. They include foundrymen, mechanics, designers, draftsmen, ironworkers, lathe operators, milling machine operators, grinding machine operators, solderers, boilermakers, patternmakers, "termistas," etc.

The forum began with debate in the plenary session on the keynote report presented by Comrade Marcos Lage, minister of the SIME, and then held intensive sessions in working committees.

During preparations for the forum no fewer than 813 papers were presented. To give you an idea of what this means, I need only point out that MINAZ submitted 133 papers, SIME 101, MICONS 96, MINAL 85 and MINFAR 64.

There were so many extensive papers submitted that the Organizing Committee decided, much to its regret, that a maximum of 100 papers would be selected for discussion at the forum, 20 per working committee at the event.

Five subcommittees were set up specifically to review and select the 100 papers, and they did intensive and praiseworthy technical work. The keynote speech emphasized that even though only those 100 had been selected, the subcommittees wrote up a technical card on each of the papers submitted, summarizing the technical work done by the workers and technicians and making technical recommendations to their authors. Moreover, the subcommittees recommended that 97 papers be published so that anyone interested in them could acquire them.

These tremendous efforts are truly encouraging, and even before the forum was staged they represented an unquestionable contribution to

this battle to help our economy. This is a treasure that we must learn how to utilize and add to constantly. This shows that our working class has unfathomable potential scientific and technical capabilities. Once more and as always our workers have responded to their appeal of their party.

The keynote report submitted at the forum was debated in the plenary session, at the inaugural session, and there were 83 clearly-worded speeches by the delegates. Each speech was marked by objectivity, by pragmatism, which is achieved only by mastering one's trade, and by an unquestionable love of work.

There were so many suggestions and proposals that it was decided that the committees should gather and analyze them and offer their opinions. But regardless of whether some of them might be implemented in the short or medium term while others might require follow-up studies, I think that these speeches are now part of the thick docket of know-how that this forum has provided us.

There were some very outstanding addresses, which met with the enthusiastic support of the audience, such as the one by a woman comrade from Granma Province who talked about the enterprises that meet their technical-economic plans by boosting their costs incurred, not by putting out more parts, or the comrade who called for a battle against the malady known as the abandonment and neglect of our equipment, and there were many others that dealt with various aspects of this sphere.

Five Working Committees held sessions during the forum. They are: the Foundry, Thermal Treatment, Soldering and Powder Metallurgy Committee; the Molds, Dies, Devices and Tools Committee; the Common Spare Parts Design and Technology Committee, and the Industrial Spare Parts Design and Technology Committee.

These committees debated the selected papers and drew up their advisory opinions, which were conveyed to the plenary session by the chairmen. For its part, the jury, composed of highly qualified and respected comrades, chose the winning papers, which received awards at the closing session.

The debates in the committees were extraordinary in every sense of the word, because they even had to meet overtime to conclude a number of discussions. More than 600 speeches were delivered.

Another very important point that I ought to stress is the spirit and concrete results of the committees, which were marked by discipline, earnest work and the rigor of the speeches and debates. Our comrades on them view them as a great learning experience.

The forum is not an end in itself; it is merely the starting point on the way to further accomplishments. It represents another step upward in organizing and raising the consciousness of our workers, on the road towards stimulating production and productivity, conservation and economic efficiency.

The enhanced salvaging and production of spare parts has not come like the proverbial bolt from the blue. On the contrary, it is an outgrowth of the revolutionary tradition of a people that refused to be choked off by the imperialist enemy, that stood up to blackmail and said "no!" to conformism and acquiescence. It reflects the will of a people who are determined to pursue their unwavering path towards socialism and communism.

We are a small nation with limited resources, threatened, surrounded, harassed and blockaded by the powerful and corrupt financial oligarchy that rules in the United States.

Moreover, we are a country with an open economy that is somewhat vulnerable to the economic crisis besetting the world today.

Therefore, it is an unpostponable imperative for our entire nation to pursue a policy of substituting for imports and diversifying exports, and to put into practice the rallying cry of conserving everything at all costs, conserving laminates, tools and equipment, conserving every drop of oil, every kilowatt.

It is within this context of a tooth and nail struggle for conservation, optimization and efficiency that we must place the need for this forum and for what we expect will be its results and conclusions.

The domestic production of spare parts covers only about one-fourth of the country's total needs. Moreover, there has been an upward trend in imports in recent years.

As we can see, importing spare parts requires heavy outlays of foreign exchange.

In more than a few instances, the manufacture of spare parts is the cornerstone for gradually achieving the goal of producing here at home many of the pieces of equipment and installations that we now import. This goal, which is of paramount economic importance, transcends a material framework and has become a political objective of the first order.

Comrades:

Our party's Second Congress passed specific resolutions designed to: "Develop and maximize the production and salvaging of spare parts, in order to replace imports, mainly from the capitalist area, and to better meet domestic demand."

In response to these resolutions and guidelines, starting in December 1980, as has been properly emphasized, a further push was given to this activity, as major steps were taken to expand the coordination among and joint work by all of the factors connected with spare parts.

Some 14 ministries are involved in producing and salvaging spare parts, including the FAR Ministry and 6 other central State agencies, as well as the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], the corresponding unions, the Youth Technical Brigades (BTJ) and the National Association of Rationalizers and Innovators.

A National Committee was set up in January 1981 to study the entire problem of producing and salvaging spare parts, and it included all of the main producing organizations. Several subcommittees were organized within it to tackle the main specific problems: planning process, statistical monitoring and economic incentives; manufacturing of spare parts for farm, transportation and construction equipment; study of existing facilities and their organizational and technical status for producing spare parts for industrial upkeep; study of parts salvaging from a technical and economic standpoint, and an analysis of problems involving tools and rubber items.

A comprehensive approach to this complex activity and the structure that the National Committee developed for analysis, study and recommendations enabled us to make gains throughout 1981 and to achieve greater coordination among the various organizations.

Now then, comrades, very few people are as familiar as you are with the complexities confronting us, the many varied stumbling blocks that we come across day after day in our efforts to put these lines of production on the right track.

I am not talking about a big 1-day battle that can be won or lost, thus carrying us on to glory or oblivion. I am talking about the battle of every day, of every hour, of every minute, that is being waged in various fields and against various factors, any one of which could halt production of a given item.

We do, in fact, face a good many problems today. They were outlined in the keynote report and debated at the forum, and because they represent the core of the problem, I think that we ought to stop and analyze them briefly.

The first thing that I would like to say in this connection is that it is essential for us to be aware of what these problems are and how they manifest themselves, because once we have identified and defined them, we can gradually go about tackling them.

The following are some of the main problems that have been curtailing and hampering the comprehensive development of salvaging and manufacturing spare parts:

--The fact that the manufacture of spare parts is not one of the numerical guidelines issued under the plan for agencies and enterprises. More than half of spare parts output has not been subject to centralized planning. Up to now, only the SIME-produced spare parts that were marketed

have been catalogued, and as I have mentioned, there are 14 organizations manufacturing significant amounts of spare parts. This year for the first time the country has a Spare Parts Production Plan as a numerical guideline for the producing ministries, and it has already been broken down by province and enterprise. It was drawn up by the enterprises and organizations, analyzed by the Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN) and approved by the government, and involves somewhat more than 168 million pesos. This does not, however, include total parts production, because there are many others that the organizations involved will be taking care of in the course of their operations. Moreover, there is still no nationwide planning of parts salvaging.

There were numerous speeches on this issue during the plenary session. Very interesting ideas were brought up, such as making better use of machine tools, or on cooperation among enterprises, the need for standards, the circulation of technical documentation, or the example that was mentioned of the lathe operator who was unaware that interchangeable blades existed in Cuba.

The fact is that although shortcomings still persist, we have made major progress along this path. Our comrades on JUCEPLAN outlined to us the steps that they have already taken to guarantee the prompt formulation of the 1983 Plan for inventories and to see to it that necessary materials are provided.

One of the most oft-discussed problems at the assemblies relates specifically to the inadequate supply of materials, which is perhaps one of the most important and critical aspects, in spite of the well-known gains that have been made thanks to the efforts of our comrades in CEATM [State Committee for Technical and Material Supply]. The production of spare parts is unquestionably a complex activity that demands proper planning, technical care and efficient supplies management and that encompasses both ferrous laminates, steel rods and various kinds of nonferrous metals, tools and components. The feeling is that spare parts production in the engineering industry factories requires more than 2,200 lines of inventory supplies.

As the keynote report properly pointed out, each one of these lines has its own characteristics, not only in terms of forms and dimensions but also with regard to properties such as hardness, tenacity, elasticity, cut resistance, etc, as well as the amounts to be supplied.

There are many factors involved in the technical and material supplies for the production of spare parts. This process encompasses determining the necessary inventories, setting up relations between suppliers and manufacturers, setting delivery deadlines in accordance with production plans and coordination among enterprises, for example, between those that do the smelting and those that do the machining, etc.

The CEATM has been working on establishing special and general stores that would sell several of its items to small consumers, hand tool stores and a cutting tools store. As was explained here, in March it will open the first metal-cutting store, with deliveries all over the country on telephone or telex orders and express deliveries to any consumer anywhere in the country.

Although the production of parts is catalogued in the plan this year, both the parts that will be marketed and the ones that will be used by the manufacturers, the supplies to guarantee these lines of production were still not accorded a separate analysis in the plan, except in the SIME. The procedures for resolving this shortcoming have already been issued for the 1983 plan, and the manufacturing organizations and the CEATM are working on it. This will have a very favorable impact in this titanic battle.

We also hope to permanently incorporate spare parts salvaging and distribution into our economic plan, as well as insure the supplies to guarantee this important activity, which as a delegate to this forum said, ought to be given priority over the manufacture of spare parts.

Adequate statistical monitoring of spare parts production did not exist either at the national level, and some organizations did not even have their Systems of Complementary Statistical Information properly implemented, which hampered an assessment of the utilization of the units that produce or salvage spare parts, as well as their planning and distribution.

Until September 1981, the State Committee for Statistics only monitored six or seven lines of spare parts. It was at that point that monitoring began on the 64 basic lines in the main production organizations, based on the work of the National Spare Parts Committee.

The State Committee for Statistics, along with JUCEPLAN and the production organizations, has looked into ways to incorporate this information into the National Statistics System so that the output of spare parts can be monitored on a monthly basis. We now have to work towards stabilizing it and improving the quality of information that the enterprises furnish. Another step forward has been the distribution of the specialized Statistical Bulletin.

The State Committee for Statistics is also engaged in studying the statistical information on imports, which will make possible a comprehensive approach to the entire problem of spare parts.

--There are also pricing problems in several lines of spare parts, because the feeling is that newly developed parts, which are generally replacements for imports, are at a disadvantage and are being promoted less than other spare parts that are already in production. We have to bear in mind that producing old lines of spare parts does not entail the same

wage and resources outlays as producing newly developed spare parts, which require, first of all, the determination of metallographic properties, then drawing up the technological manufacturing cards, identifying the most suitable materials for their production and later putting out the Series Zero to test them under use conditions.

Our comrades in JUCEPLAN, the State Committee for Statistics and the State Committee for Prices have been working on these pricing mechanisms and also on statistical monitoring and planning to promote these lines, and we hope that this situation will be resolved soon.

--During the events staged at various factories, shops and organizations, as well as in our provinces and unions, the prevailing view was that if we had the proper materials, which cost much less than the parts that we buy, we could substitute for a good many imported spare parts. For example, the workers who produce rubber parts, a poorly developed branch, have stated that Cuba could manufacture the great majority of the rubber parts that we import, which could save several millions of dollars a year. The installed capacity is there, but it is being underutilized because of a lack of demand. Better use could be made of it if we resolve the problems involved in the production design of metal molds and inserts, which ought to be an area of greater cooperation among various organizations.

In general, these production lines have not been managed combatively, aggressively shall we say, and although it is true that over the past few months we have noted a change, more coordinated, more offensive action, we must not let up in our attack on the problems having to do with metallic molds and inserts.

--The shortage of tools is one of the most critical problems affecting the manufacture of spare parts, and it requires urgent solutions. The term tools encompasses a wide range of items, such as abrasives, cutting tools, for example, files, cutting blades, bits, drills, taps, etc. There are factories with equipment that is on the verge of shutting down because of the lack of a special grinding wheel, a special cutting blade, a reamer or simply a specific bit. In order to avoid shutting down operations, these places often use cutting tools that are not ideally suited to the existing equipment. Like so many other such stop-gap remedies, this one, in turn, is the source of other problems by diverting these tools from their proper use and generally, therefore, wearing them out too fast. In other instances there is a shortage of abrasives to grind them to the required specifications, which shortens the useful life of the tools and lessens the quality of what is being produced. The Construction Ministry operates a plant that produces high-quality abrasives and that is being supported by all organizations in order to help meet most of the country's needs in many product lines and with the required quality.

We have to devote special attention to developing the production of these tools, in order to reduce the country's dependence on imports and thus contribute to considerable savings in time and foreign exchange. I need only point out that the prices of tools and abrasives on the capitalist market have tripled and even quadrupled.

--The lack of specific documentation adversely affects the skills and training of personnel and limits familiarity with new technologies, tools and equipment that could stimulate the creative initiative and capacity of our workers and technicians, in addition to keeping them divorced from the advances of science and technology.

At the assemblies and at the forum itself, people time and again stressed the need to acquire magazines, manuals, pamphlets and books and to lend greater support to the translation and publication of such technical literature and documentation. It was also suggested that we intensify exchanges and cooperation with the socialist countries, which does not mean ignoring the experience of the capitalist countries.

As I explained at the opening session, just after the interesting and well-received speech by Comrade Nilda, last year with the support of 10 organizations, we managed to get together \$100,000 to buy 6,700 books overseas that were suggested by specialists in our shops and plants, and we distributed them first to the comrades who were selected for the Molds, Dies, Devices and Tools Meeting. We also delivered a great many of them to 140 shops in the main spare parts producing organizations. Out of a shipment that we put aside, we distributed additional material, including to the delegates to this forum.

We have to continue working in this direction so that a maximum of information reaches our shops and our engineers, workers and technicians. We feel that this is one of the greatest contributions that we can really make to the development of these specialties. The ministries, the specialized magazines that these ministries put out and the enterprises that import equipment must help by circulating all information that might be of use to this end. I have talked about this with comrades from the paper TRABAJADORES, the idea being to devote some space to these matters. As part of this policy, we have printed up 75,000 copies of 180 papers at this forum, and they have handed out to the participants here.

Another problem in all shops and plants that greatly affects the output of spare parts has to do with measuring instruments and equipment and the shortage of hand tools.

We know how much our shops bewail the lack of a foot rule, of a measuring tape or a durometer. This adversely affects quality control and causes excessive defective output, leads to the use of inadequate materials and, most critically, causes excessive outlays of funds. We must do everything we can to alleviate the shortage of these items, which would also help save time and foreign exchange, in addition to promoting higher-quality output.

There are many links in this chain that could strengthen or weaken these lines of production. One exceptionally important factor is the overhaul of machine-tools.

Forty percent of the national machinery pool is more than 20 years old, which heightens the need for general repairs. Overhauls are done in our country at special MITRANS, MINAL, MINIL and SIME shops, which though they might not meet existing demand, have made some gains possible in this line of work.

As you know, altering the use parameters of a machine-tool, for example, requires highly-skilled personnel with extensive experience.

We feel that the need for overhauls can be met by making increased use of available capabilities and by enhancing the planning and organization of this activity. In particular, we have to train more skilled workers in this specialty. Parallel to this, we have to boost the number of plants that can overhaul their machines

--Design is a poorly developed but highly important activity. In spite of the efforts that have been made in recent years, the specialized design of spare parts is still poorly organized; there is not enough technical personnel, and the production shops are not getting all the technical documentation they require.

--The very development of new spare parts to replace imports means that design bureaus and design activities in general have to be strengthened. In addition, central government organizations have to furnish more extensive information to our factories in connection with design standards and specialized technical documentation.

We know that numerous organizations are already taking steps in this direction.

Another problem plaguing us is the inadequate development of our forging and insufficient amounts of quality cast iron. As far as forging is concerned, we are not fully utilizing the country's operating capacity even though many spare parts have to be forged.

Our inadequate development in the manufacture of spare parts can also be seen in the case of cast iron. International experience tells us that between 7 and 10 times as many cast iron spare parts should be produced as steel parts. The ratio in our country is about three to one.

The main problems involved in this ratio are: the poor quality of some lines of production due to technological difficulties at the facilities, inasmuch as we need to continue expanding electric-arc and induction smelting, the quality of which is much higher than with shaft furnaces. Other factors are the lack of highly skilled personnel in this specialty and organizational problems.

Parallel to this, we have to expedite the startup and make maximum use of our new plant capacities, such as the "24 de julio" farm tools plant in Holguin and the gray-iron and malleable iron plant in Guantanamo.

--Finally, we could point out that not enough attention and priority is being accorded the salvaging of spare parts.

The salvaging of spare parts is currently neither planned nor statistically monitored. In general there is no technical-economic assessment of this activity, and it is not being promoted with an effective incentives and pricing system. Furthermore, there is no organized system for gathering spare parts for technical salvaging, except at very few facilities.

We can say that in most cases it costs less to salvage a part than to import or manufacture a new one; this underscores its economic importance in conserving human and material resources. Moreover, even if funds are available for imports, they are impossible to obtain at times, and thus renovating parts is the only way to keep equipment running.

I could cite many examples of how spare parts have been salvaged, but I will mention only the following one. At the meetings in thermoelectric plants and at the national meeting on the salvaging of parts, people asserted that most industrial valves could be salvaged, which would save an estimated 5 to 6 million pesos a year.

Our economic agencies ought to heed the experience and follow the example of MINFAR, which we feel is the ministry that has made the most progress in this field. The comrade who heads the MINFAR delegation talked about how important it is to establish a logical, economical classification system for deciding whether to repair, salvage or, if necessary, manufacture. In other words, MINFAR maintains a list of equipment to be repaired and conducts technical analyses on their component parts, placing the parts that can be salvaged at the top of the list and then proceeding to collect them. It then determines what new parts ought to be produced and has set up shops with the equipment to do the salvaging. MITRANS has also organized spare parts salvaging shops and made strides in several lines, particularly bus and truck crankshafts, pistons and piston bolts, "Hino" block covers and others. Savings in these items alone total more than 5 million pesos. Our comrades in the "Alquitax" plant have gained valuable experience in this regard, particularly because of their advanced organization and the simplicity of their operations.

Parts salvaging is an economic area of appreciable importance, so much so that both the developed socialist and the capitalist countries have institutes and enterprises devoted to this special field. The USSR and other socialist countries have Research Institutes and centralized salvaging shops.

In this connection, the National Meeting on the Salvaging of Parts that we held in Havana around the middle of last year and that yielded very

fine results, recommended that we keep in mind the following points in pursuing our policies:

- Promote the establishment of salvaging centers and see to it that they specialize;
- Help resolve problems relating to supplies, which ought to be analyzed separately;
- Prepare training and retraining courses for workers and technicians;
- Make technical documents and literature available on what other countries are doing in this field;
- Work harder and more effectively to disseminate information.

A delegation from the Soviet Union's Foreign Trade Ministry visited our country recently and showed every willingness to help us develop this technology, by means of bilateral exchanges between ministries, the training of specialists and exchanges of information and experiences. We should give serious thought to such exchanges.

Lastly, all of the organizations involved in these lines of production should devote greater attention to organizing this activity and according it priority.

I have given a rundown of practically all the main problems plaguing us, problems that we have to tackle without the slightest hesitation. However, comrades, it is only fair to acknowledge that thanks to the efforts of the National Spare Parts Committee, we made major strides in 1981.

On top of these gains we now have the timely proposal by the Metallurgical and Chemical-Mining-Energy Unions to organize a special emulation to spur the salvaging and manufacture of spare parts, a proposal that was analyzed and enriched by every one of you in each committee.

The gains that we have made so far must not cause us to rest on our laurels.

The fact is that we still have a long way to go, and there are many production tasks yet to be accomplished. We have to push on doggedly, day after day and year after year, making gain after gain until we accomplish our basic goals. Our enemies do not realize how much heroism, how much capacity for sacrifice, how much courage and how much intelligence our working class possesses! This forum has been a small-scale demonstration of the spirit that reigns among our working people!

Comrades:

On 2 December 1979, on the 23rd anniversary of the landing of the Granma, Comrade Fidel stated at the Santa Clara Textile Complex: "We have to minimize

our imports of parts and we have to develop coordination among our various engineering industries." At another point in this speech he added: "I can well remember how during the first few years of the revolution our workers somehow managed to keep the textile industry running despite the blockade and even though most of our machines were U.S.-made and we could not obtain parts from that country. They often made them in small shops." These were Comrade Fidel's words.

The imperialists will never know how much their criminal, arrogant policy helped us to develop a full-fledged mass movement, from San Antonio to Maisi, to prevent production from shutting down, to keep our sugar mills, our industries and shops operating and to keep our lands plowed and cultivated. Prompted by necessity, there arose a combative, stoic determination to keep our factories and equipment running in spite of all difficulties.

Today, with the same determination as then but with the experience that we have gained and with the rigor that science and technology provide us, we must tackle the new difficulties facing us, secure in the knowledge that like yesterday we will succeed in the noble purpose of continuing the unstoppable march of the revolution.

You are trailblazers, a spearhead in coming up with affordable solutions that are commensurate with our technologies and the skill levels of our work force.

It is therefore only fair to once again emphasize our entire people's recognition of the heroism of this vital and almost always anonymous work, because we must never forget the dignity of these trades and specialties and the esteem in which our people and the party hold these men and women, who are as "simple as the truth" and as transparent as sunlight.

What they mean to our revolution today and the example they give to our children are inestimable. Therefore, we must make every effort and use every means and opportunity to publicize their example and acknowledge their work.

Many of you remember the ignominious prerevolutionary past. Of what value was a lathe operator, a fisherman, a lubricator, a bricklayer, a patternmaker or a mechanic to that society? The creators of all that society's material wealth lived in humiliation, forgotten by their own homeland.

Today, people such as they make up the ranks of our glorious national labor heroes and the national union vanguards, in short, our nation's trailblazers.

These individuals have been forged by a hard life and hard work, and they have a lofty sense of discipline and a deep-seated revolutionary spirit.

At the plenary session, one delegate proposed, with the unanimous backing of the participants, that we dedicate our forum to the 10th Congress of the World Union Federation, which will be held soon in our country.

Our Antillean, Caribbean island, which is building the foundations of socialism and communism just a stone's throw from the United States, will be the site of this momentous international event, the first of its kind to be held in the Americas, which fills us with healthy pride.

As we conclude this First National Forum on Spare Parts today, we can be satisfied with its results. But the real results are yet to come, and they will come from you: lathe operators and mechanics, patternmakers, grinding machine operators, draftsmen, solderers, foundrymen and "termistas," when you return to your plants and shops and apply the experience you have gained throughout the process that culminated with this great event.

We know to what extent you have acquired a sense of responsibility and an awareness of what Comrade Fidel and the party expect of you, and we know to what extent you have taken to heart the rallying cry of "Fatherland or Death, We Shall Overcome!"

8743

CSO: 3010/1013

BRIEFS

U.S. SCORED AT GERMAN YOUTH CONGRESS--Manuel Morales, member of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] National Committee, has stated in the West German city of Dusseldorf that the Government of the United States conducts a dangerous and aggressive policy for the human race. Addressing the Seventh Congress of Germany's Young Socialist Workers, the Cuban delegate said that the U.S. Government openly announces its goal of military supremacy, speaks of limited nuclear war in Europe and pressures the Soviet Union. He stressed that Cuba's young people are prepared for the defense of the fatherland, threatened by warmongering cliques in the United States. He said that the United States attempts to prevent the progress of the Sandinist revolution of Nicaragua, Grenada and the Salvadoran people, while it increases its threats and provocations against Cuba and supports the most repressive and anti-popular regimes. Manuel Morales said that the Ronald Reagan Government has shown an unusual aggressiveness, particularly directed toward Central America. At a time when it escalates its criminal economic blockade against Cuba, it talks shamelessly about installing radio stations directed at destabilizing our country. The member of the UJC National Committee noted that the U.S. Government uses biological weapons against Cuba to inflict epidemics in agricultural products, animals and even in the population. The Cuban youth leader reiterated that our people are prepared to defend every inch of our territory and to give our blood for the sake of the noble ideals of socialism and communism. [Text] [FL081921 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 8 Mar 82]

CUBA, POLAND COOPERATION PROTOCOLS--Two protocols of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and the Polish People's Republic were signed today at noon. Eng Tirso Saenz, vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, and (Jan Jaroszewski), charge d'affaires of Poland, sign the document of the sixth meeting of the Cuban-Polish Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Immediately afterward, Diocles Torralba, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, and his Polish counterpart (Mieczyslaw Brovolski), signed the protocol of the ninth meeting of the Cuban-Polish Committee in the Economic, Scientific and Technical Spheres. The participants in the ceremony hailed the agreement outlined in the document and called them a new demonstration of the relation of brotherhood uniting Cuba and Poland. [Text] [FL062011 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 6 Mar 82]

CUBA, TRINIDAD TOBAGO TRADE TALKS--Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's vice minister of foreign relations, has said in Port of Spain that the potential for trade and economic cooperation between Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago is favorable.

Alarcon led a Cuban delegation which held talks with the Trinidadian Government since last Thursday. According to Alarcon, among the items considered for possible cooperation are: the technology for using sugar cane by-products, agricultural production and construction. Besides agreeing to participate in a meeting of specialists on trade matters, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago also indicated a common interest in developing cultural relations. There is a possibility that Trinidad's minister of culture will visit Cuba soon. The Cuban vice minister said that the exchange of views with Trinidadian officials was cordial and friendly and it had been agreed to continue them in the future. [Text] [FL081337 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 82]

PIONEER CENTER INAUGURATED--Army Gen Raul Castro today presided at a ceremony held in Sagua de Tanamo to inaugurate a camp for scout pioneers. [Begin Castro recording] How much better than us will they be? How much better soldiers and officers than us will they be? That is just to mention that aspect. This camp is very beautiful. Doubtlessly, it is a most deserving tribute to all the comrades who fell here and the best gift to all the (?children registered here). On behalf of all the people of Holguin, I wish to express my gratitude and congratulate you. [applause] [end recording] This was a statement by Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party, after touring the "Pedro Soto Alba" scout camp for pioneers which was inaugurated this morning in Calabaza de Sagua de Tanamo in Holguin Province. The center, which was built at the location of the Frank Pais second front headquarters during the war, is the best tribute of the people of Holguin on the 24th anniversary of the founding of that revolutionary front. The closing remarks were made by Miguel Cano Blanco, first party secretary in Holguin Province and alternate member of the Politburo. Present at the inauguration were Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women; Luis Orlando Dominguez, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists; and Manuel Estevez, president of the Jose Marti Pioneer Organization. [Excerpts] [FL120047 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 82]

ENVOY TO SPAIN AWARDED--The King of Spain Juan Carlos has bestowed the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic upon Cuban Ambassador to Spain Carlos Alfaro. According to a news release, the Spanish monarch has conferred the high distinction on the Cuban diplomat as a proof of his esteem and following the advice of the order, whose grand master is the Spanish monarch. [Text] [FL110142 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Mar 82]

NATIONAL FORESTRY MEETING--Arnaldo Milian, a member of the Politburo, and Julian Rizo, a member of the secretariat, have chaired the annual assessment meeting of the Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Workers trade Union at which the union's secretary, Rene Penalver, a member of the Central Committee, gave the annual report. In his closing remarks, Rizo noted that 1981 was the best year for agriculture since the triumph of the revolution, and this paved the way for higher achievements. [FL1120131 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1421 GMT 11 Mar 82]

NICARAGUA WOMEN'S MEETING--Vilma Espin, president of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], announced here yesterday at a press conference that from 24 to 26 March Nicaragua will host a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean women whose central theme will be characterized by its anti-imperialist stand and a spirit of solidarity. Informing about Cuba's wide support of that continental event, Vilma stressed that the meeting will reconfirm its solidarity with the peoples of Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba, threatened by Yankee imperialism. [Text] [FL091606 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Mar 82]

GDR ECONOMIC OFFICIAL--Lionel Soto, a member of the Communist Party of Cuba Secretariat, has received a GDR delegation headed by Dr Helmut Koziolk, a member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee and director of its Central Institute for Socialist Economic Management. The delegation is in our country at the invitation of the Higher Institute of Economic Management and has visited several areas of historic, economic, political and cultural interest in the provinces of Havana City, Matanzas and Pinar del Rio. [FL091606 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 9 Mar 82]

PORT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK ASSESSMENT--Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo, has announced that Havana City contributed greatly toward cutting equipment delays and toward favorable results across the nation as confirmed by the assessment of the port, transportation internal economy network for February. The assessment made here yesterday was also presided over by members of the Politburo, Guillermo Garcia, minister of transportation, and Julio Camacho Aguilera, first secretary of the party in the province. It was announced that the Havana port had a favorable balance of 125,068 pesos for early deliveries during the month assessed, contrasting with the same period in 1981 when it paid 225,000 pesos in delays. The management of Havana City's means of ground transportation reflects a negative balance of 94,737 pesos which requires transportation workers to make greater efforts, notwithstanding the cut in that indicator relative to last year. [Text] [FL091606 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Mar 82]

030: 3010/1056

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO COLOMBIA

FL081400 Bridgetown CANA in English 1816 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Rosseau, Dominica, 7 Mar (CANA)--Colombia is to extend a line of credit to Dominica, primarily for the purchase of cement from the Central American state, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has announced here.

Miss Charles, who has just returned home from a three-day official aid-seeking visit to Colombia told reporters that she expected that the final documents for the bilateral agreement would be ready for signing by next month.

She said that the cement would be made available to Dominica through an agreement with the Central Bank in Colombia. One result of this would be a great price reduction for Dominicans.

While in Bogota, Miss Charles held talks with President Turbay Ayala and other government officials who she said were very responsive to the needs of her economically beleaguered country.

She said too that as a result of discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture there, Dominica may be receiving technical assistance in that field, as well as a supply of beef from Colombia. Dominica she says presently imports its beef from New Zealand.

She said that the Colombians were considering a shipping service between the two countries in order to enhance each others trade.

Talks with Gomez Jaramillo, director of the National Coffee Federation of Colombia, had resulted in that country offering to assist Dominica in coffee production.

She said that the Colombians had offered to investigate lands on which coffee could be grown, as well as advise on varieties.

In the field of education Miss Charles said that she had been promised technical assistance, including the possible training of Dominicans in the field of hydro-power, radio and television.

She said she was particularly interested in a Colombian scheme called "SENA" [National Apprenticeship Service] under which people are trained to do a job in which they are already functioning. Such an idea Miss Charles said, could fit into the current technical education programme of her government.

The prime minister said that the Colombians had promised to send to Dominica next month a team of experts in the various fields earmarked for assistance, with the main aim "at looking at means of responding to our requests."

Miss Charles said she was "heartened by the response of Colombia to the requests of the Dominica Government."

She said that her talks with President Ayala centered on affairs of Dominica in particular and the Caribbean in general and the wish by Colombia to have more meaningful ties with regional countries.

She said that she hoped to see the benefit of her visit to Colombia within the next two or three months.

CSO: 3025/1052

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO U.S, UN--Roseau, Dominica, 7 Mar (CANA)--A former Dominica chief minister, Frank Baron, appointed last month as this country's ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS), will also be accredited to Washington and the United Nations, it was announced here today. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Eugenia Charles said that Mr Baron will have non-residential status, but will set up a consulate in New York mainly to offer assistance to Dominicans in North America. [Text] [FL082053 Bridgetown CANA in English 1741 GMT 8 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1052

AGRICULTURAL ENTITIES CRITICIZE DUARTE'S ATTITUDE

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Jan 82 p 2

[Text] We have received the following communique:

"THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL ENTITIES addresses itself to the national conscience of all Salvadorans in order to express its grave concern in the face of the misdirected and wavering attitude shown by the president of the revolutionary government junta, Jose Napoleon Duarte, in his approach to the dramatic reality which our country is experiencing, and particularly with respect to the role played by the various sectors of private enterprise.

"I) The Council of Agricultural Entities totally supports the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the study which it recently published in the country's newspapers, a study also sent to the honorable members of the revolutionary government junta, local universities, members of the armed forces, and the accredited embassies in our country. This study is the result of conscientious research and analysis of the behavior of our economy in recent years, following the "structural reforms," and comparison of the same with the years immediately preceding said reforms. It is a telling x-ray that reveals the national economy's state of acute deterioration as a consequence of a critical drop in virtually every productive sector.

"II) President Jose Napoleon Duarte, in his ill-advised television presentation of the night of the 20th last, instead of using data or statistics to contradict the catastrophic national economic situation, which is the result of current misgovernment, and which the chamber has properly denounced, vents his ire against the members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ANEP [National Association of Private Enterprise] and the Productive Alliance, calling them retrogrades, traitors, and a series of other epithets, which Mr Duarte, due to his investiture although it is only de facto, ought to refrain from pronouncing out of respect for the Salvadoran people.

"III) The Council of Agricultural Entities is of the opinion that the best form of government is a representative democracy, and thus feels it is imperative to hold elections next March 28th. As citizen dissent is essential to the democratic system, we cannot understand why dissent provokes such wrath in the president of the junta; or is it the case that communitarianism is a closed form of government in which only the authorities have the

right to express themselves, and not the people? This is called to our attention as Federico Ozanam, head of Christian Democracy, has said (and hear this well, President Duarte): "Democracy is the final goal of political progress, towards which God is leading the world." Mr Duarte, the Chamber of Commerce, with its recent study, is giving a great lesson in democracy.

"IV) We read with great wonder in LA PRENSA GRAFICA of the 25th of this month, page 34, that Mr Duarte has emphatically declared the Christian Democratic Party to be a leftist party, and having looked for its placement in our Political Constitution, we cannot find it. This concerns us because it raises the possibility that Mr Duarte is moving away from the Christian Democratic philosophy. According to the book "What is Christian Democracy?", written by Ambrosio Romero Carranza, Ediciones del Atlantico, 1956, Buenos Aires, Argentina, page 110: "The position of the Christian Democratic political parties is thus clearly centrist." Wake up, people of El Salvador! Into what straits are we being led?

San Salvador, January 27, 1982.

9839

CSO: 3010/860

ACES POINTS OUT CAUSES FOR DROP IN COFFEE PRODUCTION

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Jan 82 p 2

[Text] While reiterating its desire to discuss guidelines for financing the new coffee crop and better distribution of the coffee bean with INCAFE [National Coffee Institute] and credit authorities, the Coffee Growers' Association of El Salvador [ACES] reports that the current harvest has dropped alarmingly, and points out as causes of the drop the lack of incentive for growers, 1981 credit arrears, and government intervention in the process of production.

The relevant communique states as follows:

The board of directors of the Coffee Growers' Association of El Salvador, on the occasion of beginning this year's work, sends cordial greetings to all its members and to the public in general."

"We take this opportunity to publicly demonstrate, once again, our growing concern with the future of our country's principal export product, which is the base of our so-often mishandled economy, especially in view of the data collected all over the republic showing that the current harvest is down to an alarming degree. This means a considerable decline in national income, which in turn makes it necessary to take appropriate measures with the degree of urgency called for by the circumstances."

"The causes of the decline in production are principally the following:"

- a) the lack of incentives for members of the coffee growers' association to devote time and attention to their farms as in previous years;
- b) arrears of last year's credits, credit immobility, and confiscatory interest rates;
- c) the disastrous marketing practices of INCAFE as implemented by its board of directors, as reflected in low coffee prices.

"This all indicates once again that government intervention in national production has been unable, from any point of view, to give the benefits which were so loudly proclaimed to justify state intervention."

"We once again call upon the human resources of our nation not to permit the country to continue to be dragged toward the most frightening of disasters, and we issue a call to all the country's coffee growers to strengthen their links of solidarity and face up to a more and more delicate situation with courage and a great spirit of sacrifice, and to put forward serious proposals that will at least remain as evidence for our posterity and future generations that we fought the good fight, in spite of circumstances, and our descendants may judge those who are responsible for this dark destiny."

"We wish to meet with credit authorities to discuss suitable guidelines for financing the new crop, to discuss with INCAFE officials the best way to market the coffee bean, and to have them take the growers' association into account in all matters having to do with coffee cultivation, so as not to fall into recently repeated errors such as the inadequate campaign against rust, planting of new areas, fertilization and maintenance of plantations, and proper treatment of the human person as a determining factor in production."

"When the structural reforms sought by the government were first enacted, coffee production had attained a level of 4 million quintals, more or less; 2 years after said reforms it has declined by almost 50 percent, an indication of the reforms' inefficacy, which has only permitted the intensification of an interminable, violent struggle, the likes of which have never before been seen in our territory."

"San Salvador, 12 January 1982. Coffee Growers' Association of El Salvador."

9839

CSO: 3010/860

ACES ASKS GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY AGRARIAN POLICY

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 1 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] "Once and for all let our general agricultural policy be clarified, so we will know where we are heading," the Coffee Growers' Association of El Salvador [ACES] has said, while pointing out that in El Slavador "we must not lose the principle of private enterprise, which is so important and necessary to achieve a people's prosperity."

Other statements in defense of the Salvadoran coffee-growing sector are expressed by ACES in an editorial in the ALMANAQUE AGRICOLA 1982, published by the association, which states as follows:

"The Coffee Growers' Association of El Salvador is a permanent entity which groups together all the country's coffee growers, and stand firm in the struggle to defend the coffee industry from every angle."

"At the present time, the association has put forward a series of proposals which would help alleviate the chaotic situation in which the country's coffee growers find themselves."

"We are willing to cooperate in any way that benefits the coffee growers' association, contributing ideas and experience to solve problems in the best manner possible; thus we hope that the proposals which we have put before the government authorities will in turn be acted upon with the greatest possible speed. We want to share in coffee policy. We believe it is just for the coffee tax to revised, because we think it is unfair to pay taxes on losses. We want easy credit with preferential interest to create a stimulus for productivity. And we need for agricultural policy in general to be clarified once and for all so we will know where we are heading."

"Coffee culture is the main source of wealth for our country, and we must think deeply about the meaning of this in order to face our problems with a foundation in reality."

"We understand that the current situation is critical, but others are to blame for this. Therefore, as a logical consequence, we want to maintain an appropriate system that will generate every kind of satisfaction, within a framework of justice, without in any way losing sight of the principle of private enterprise that is so important and necessary to achieve prosperity for a people that needs sources for jobs for better living."

"Coffee is the wealth of El Salvador's people, so let us defend it. If coffee dies, the nation sinks with it."

JUNTA MEMBER MORALES EHRLICH DISCUSSES AGRARIAN REFORM

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Feb 82 p 14

[Interview with Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, member of the Revolutionary Government Junta of El Salvador and head of the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation (ISTA), by Miguel J. Carbajal, in El Salvador; date not given]

[Text] Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, a 48-year old attorney, married, with six children, born into the ranks of the Christian Democratic Party like Napoleon Duarte, and, like Napoleon Duarte, familiar with the bitter honey of exile, is not only one of the four members of the Revolutionary Government Junta of El Salvador, but also the man in charge of ISTA, the Institute responsible for carrying out agrarian reform in that small country of 21,000 square kilometers, in which nearly 6 million people reside.

[Question] Dr Morales Ehrlich, what are the measures that ISTA has adopted?

[Answer] Before discussing the measures adopted by ISTA, it is fitting to know the reasons for which they were taken. In El Salvador, we had the most unjust socioeconomic and political structures in Latin America, essentially violence-producing structures; because what existed was, on the one hand, a small ruling elite which concentrated all the power, engaging in a Manchester-type capitalism insensitive to the poverty and pain of the people; while on the other hand there was a great mass of illiterate, sick and hungry population, without even a roof for protection. That was El Salvador; and it was deteriorating and becoming worse with the passage of time. And although it took many decades to be produced, the situation was clearly becoming exacerbated during the 1960's when, after a coup d'etat in 1961, a very extensive, very ambitious government platform was mounted, which was not actually carried out, but turned into a phase of corruption and disregard for the fundamental problems.

[Question] Why was it an ambitious platform?

[Answer] Because it established some constructive things in principle. Therein, for the first time, there was proportionate representation in the Assembly, and the organization of political parties was allowed.

[Question] Had there never been proportionate representation up until that time?

[Answer] No, never; the proportionate representation came into existence with that government of 1962. And there appeared political parties which were better structured, such as the Christian Democratic Party, which came into being at that very time. Hence, what occurred was a far more democratic openness than what we had had previously, and definitely more democratic than the dictatorship which had just been overthrown. But, whether paradoxically or not, the situation resulted in an even more closed concentration of power because, while the electoral volume of the opposition parties began to grow, the government parties gradually lost popular support and had to resort increasingly to force in order to exercise their supremacy. That coincidence of growth on the one hand and decline on the other became evident in 1968, when a virtual tie occurred between the Christian Democratic Party and the party which is in the government. These are the two major forces, because the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party have always been very small, and other highly conservative parties have been extremely small.

[Question] How many political parties are operating in El Salvador?

[Answer] Several have proliferated in recent months, after the elections. At the present time there are....

Without a Party Tradition

[Question] I am really asking you how many political parties with a tradition there are in El Salvador.

[Answer] There, we did not even have a tradition of conservative parties and liberal parties. We had parties which came into being and went out of existence with the regime, and which sometimes became registered again under a different name, with the same people. We had parties such as the Communist Party which, although it is small, is the oldest one historically, because it appeared in 1928; and which, since it was always illegal, took control of other parties in order to be able to act. For example, there is the instance of the PAR [Renovation Action Party], an old party founded about 1950, which at one time was taken over by the Communists. In 1968, when they abolished it (it has come into existence again now, but it is very small), the Communists quickly changed ranks and became incorporated into the Nationalist Democratic Union, which is now in the Marti Farabundo Front that was founded as a right wing party and is now the front for the Communist Party.

[Question] But is there no possibility of setting up large movements?

[Answer] We shall attempt it. There is the Christian Democratic Party, which was the great opposition party until the coup d'etat of 1979, and which is now the government party. There is the National Conciliation Party, which was the government party precisely until 1979. There is the Communist Party,

with the facade of the Nationalist Democratic Union; and, finally, there is the National Revolutionary Movement of Ungo and company, which was of a Social Democratic persuasion, incorporated into the Socialist International, and a very small, highly intellectual, "elite" group. There are others, to be sure, but they are non-existent numerically. Coalitions occurred among those four forces (at least among some of them), and there were temporary unions until, in 1977, the last vestiges of democracy were eliminated and the ruling economic group, backed by the top-ranking military of the time, with a dreadful political blindness, gave carte blanche for the development of the Marxist left, which was organized about 1970 and which grew until, in 1977, with every democratic route closed, it showed up as the only possible alternative against the dictatorship; an armed alternative, of course. Therefore, we had a Christian Democratic Party which had progressed greatly but which lost positions when the democratic route was closed. It is now retrieving them. And we had a guerrilla movement which progressed greatly, but which is now declining. In other words, between a democratic opposition and a Marxist opposition, whichever one came to power would be the government. And since we came to power and formed a government, the left has not accepted us; because they obviously wanted to come to power themselves, and are unwilling to accept any other alternative.

A Tie in Power

[Question] How did the Christian Democrats come to power?

[Answer] The fact is that the alliance between the unjust ruling group of an agro-exporting oligarchy, which was hampering the country's development and, with its purposes largely concealed, was facing an unsatisfied demand, and the military force, was inevitably broken upon the coup d'etat of 15 October 1979, which put an end to an intolerable situation. Thus, we had a right wing which, having broken off from the military, was incapable of exercising hegemony over the process; we had a military force which had everyone against it in 1970, including the Carter government, and which was therefore unable to govern alone; and we had democratic forces which had been hard hit by the previous dictatorship and which were clearly disorganized. We also had a Marxist left, which did not have sufficient popular support to be able to fulfill its ambitions for domination. In this tie of power, what we did was to break the tie through the union of the armed force with the democratic force, with the notion of stealing bases from the Marxist left and the right, so as, together, to initiate a process of democratization and structural changes in the society, to achieve democracy; but a democracy backed by social justice, because one cannot talk about democracy without social justice. And the Government Junta appeared.

[Question] Why is the Government Junta called Revolutionary?

[Answer] How can the goals be attained without making changes? How could we spur on the transformation of our society to attain social justice if we had an inflexible structure? So, we had to make changes which were really of a revolutionary type; interpreting as revolution the deepseated, radical change

of the structures, and not a bloody change; and the first change had to be directed toward the existing structure of land ownership.

[Question] Was that the most critical area?

[Answer] The agro-exporting oligarchy possessed the land, the banks and the foreign trade; it possessed everything. But the situation of the land was reaching unbelievable limits. The oligarchy itself held 40 percent of the good land in the country. But the agrarian reform did not strike at the oligarchy alone, but also at the group of sectors which comprised the ruling group. Here in El Salvador 92 percent of the land was in the hands of 8 percent of the population. It was a concentration of power that was absolutely impossible to match.

[Question] The ISTA statistics mention the expropriation of 228,000 hectares, turned over to 35,000 farming families representing 320 cooperatives and a population of 250,000 individuals, as the initiation of a phase which has already undergone further expropriations. Is the agrarian reform process continuing?

[Answer] At the present time, there are 65,000 new landholders. The figure will reach 250,000 landholders when the process ends within 3 or 4 years. The few top levels that ISTA controls must be viewed on the scale of El Salvador, a country of 21,000 square kilometers, many of which are uninhabitable and unproductive, with a population of nearly 6 million; and this inevitably brings top levels which are ridiculously low for other countries. The basic agrarian reform law stipulates that a Salvadoran may not own more than 100 hectares of land. Anything exceeding that figure is expropriated and is assigned to the reform. For reasons of viability, the first phase set the top level at 500 hectares; the land comprised of between 500 and 100 hectares will be involved in a second phase.

[Question] Do you mean that there are no plots of land containing over 500 hectares in El Salvador at present?

[Answer] They exist, but only in the form of cooperatives owned by the farmers. Anything over 500 hectares is no longer in the hands of an individual owner.

Program of Reforms

[Question] Were there many expanses of land in El Salvador exceeding that limit?

[Answer] The majority; there were expanses of 2,900 hectares, of 3,300, of 2,700, of 2,400 and even of 5,000 hectares; fields which belonged to the Regalados, the Posadas and Eugenio Aguilar; or to the Quirolas, who were the ones owning the most land in the country, but they had it distributed among several estates. Obviously, what has been affected is the total of 500 hectares, although it has been distributed among several expanses.

[Question] But, were there other reforms also, concurrently with the agrarian reform?

[Answer] Because the people who owned the land also owned the banks, and controlled them for their large estate related purposes; and we have nationalized the banks. However, we have not carried out a nationalization of assets; but rather are working with private systems or those with a mixed economy. Fifty-one percent of the banks are now state-owned, with 20 percent owned by the banks' workers and 29 percent with a free sale of shares among the entire public. No one can have more than 1 percent of a bank, and no one can be a stockholder in more than one bank. We have thereby guaranteed the participation, the control and the administrative efficiency. The vice-presidents of the banks are elected by the workers, and then there are members appointed by the stockholders and by the Central Bank. The banks have been placed in the service of agrarian reform. And the foreign trade has been nationalized, concentrated basically on coffee, cotton and sugar cane, in order to be able to make the agrarian reform viable. And we are putting all this in the service of the human resources of El Salvador, not the state.

The Devastating Terrorism

[Question] Haven't the reforms upset the levels of productivity in the country?

[Answer] It is not the reforms that have reduced the productivity levels which, as will be observed later, have operated very well. It is the country. We are experiencing a crisis as a country, brought about by various causes which constitute the perfect prescription for a widespread economic crisis to occur:

1. There is a dreadful flight of capital. Private capital is like a wild beast, hearing a small sound and running to hide elsewhere.
2. The prices of our basic export products have dropped terribly on the international market.
3. Oil prices have risen sky-high.
4. The guerrillas and their eagerness for destruction have cost us economic damage amounting to millions and millions of dollars.

As part of that national crisis, there is violence, and this prompts the farmer not to plant, because he is afraid that his crop will be lost, and that he will not be able to harvest it. Violence is the worst enemy of the work levels.

[Question] Have the guerrillas directly impeded rural production?

[Answer] The guerrillas devastated areas, and created those hundreds of thousands of refugees who have become useless hands. But the situation is more limited now, although they are becoming more severe during this pre-election period. There has been no effect in the area in which the agrarian reform has been carried out; in the southern and coastal areas, where the livestock raising, and the cotton, sugar cane and grain are located; in the central area, where the coffee is located; and in the very fertile valleys,

where vegetables are grown, is where only the specter of violence and the fear of what might happen prevail. And in the north there is nothing, because it is mountainous and that is where the guerrillas are; and also, in small farm centers, where they come down and have some penetration. In those locations, there have been instances of the collection of war taxes. They arrive, demand food and products, and leave; or else they stop someone on the highway, and rob him of what he has. But they do this in unpopulated areas; in the direction of the center, the population is more organized, and defends itself. However, at times they come by and steal livestock in the sight of farmers who are consumed with anger and unwilling to give them anything, much less the hard-earned product of their toil.

[Question] Is agrarian reform an end, or merely a means for another type of achievement?

[Answer] Agrarian reform is conceived as a tool for development. It is not an end in itself, but rather a means. With it, we are attempting to generate employment and to generate a demand among the farmers who, as their purchasing power improves, will be able to absorb a supply of goods and services that is capable of being produced. More work is being generated in other areas, which is what is taking place at the present time; because it is obvious that the living standard of the farmers has risen. Furthermore, we are incorporating the farmers; we have removed them from the underprivileged condition that they had; they have been organized and have risen on the social level, on an equal footing with others. They have been incorporated into the economic, social and also political realms, in the sense that they too will exercise their political rights; because if you are told on paper that you are free, but you have no food, you are actually only free to die of hunger. For this reason, it is a priority to resolve the economic status of the Salvadoran rural population.

[Question] What is the percentage of that population?

[Answer] We have 62 percent rural farmers. The agrarian reform has been devised in a 20-year process, and is aimed at converting the total population so that, by the year 2000, the rural population will be only 35 percent. The rest will be incorporated into industry, commerce, and services.

[Question] Who is carrying out the reform?

[Answer] The ISTA, the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation, which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. I am the president of the ISTA, as well as a member of the Revolutionary Government Junta.

Defense of Democracy

[Question] A moment ago, you said that there were statistics indicating that the reform had not interfered with the production levels. Can you account for those data concretely?

[Answer] Of course. Despite the acts of terrorism that have been cited, specifically in the rural area, which included setting fire to transport vehicles and products stored in the cooperatives (that is why the farmers are leaving them in the fields now, and cutting them at the last moment), and the assassination of cooperative members to deter the reform, of farmers and even of political leaders (such as the death of Rafael Rodriguez Gonzalez, of the National Conciliation Party), and scores of other atrocities, the harvests have risen with 99 percent normality.

[Question] Which would indicate that work is continuing despite the violence that prevails.

[Answer] Because the left chose the path of fear, and it turned out badly, despite the victims that it obtained. I think that it can now be said that there is an increase in the cooperation of large groups of Salvadoran society. I think that this is beginning to be evident. Up until now, you have seen me act in an overly harsh manner toward the right and the group which established an unjust economic structure with suicidal projections. But, as a government, we are not enemies of the right. The fact is that we had a group from the right which refused to risk a defense of its rights and its conservative ideals within a democratic system. And that is what we could not allow; and clashes occurred. But now the advent of a change is evident. There are people who have joined the process of democratization and who are ready to defend their interests, something which seems reasonable, comparing their ideas with the ideas and interests of others, under the democratic groundrules, the only ones possible. One notes a greater incorporation in that direction; and there are many businessmen who have joined in the planting and the development of the country.

[Question] Can you personalize what you have said?

[Answer] We had a record planting of sugar cane this year; and we are reaching the highest level in the nation's history, for the area of sugar cane planted. And we have done this with cooperatives and with private companies, which proves that there is confidence in the process and a desire to work. Now, we are preparing for the cotton harvest and the new planting. We have held work meetings with these people, and they are willing to strive to make this industry return to normal production levels this year.

[Question] Which sectors are the most reluctant to cooperate?

[Answer] There are certain politicized sectors which have attributed to themselves the representation of commerce, industry and agriculture. But even on that level movements have arisen willing to assume the representative status that belongs to them legally. There are 42,000 coffee planters in the country, but the Coffee Growers Association does not have 400 active members, and it is in the hands of a group that is ready to cause problems. The same thing holds true for an association called Pro-Cane, which does not even represent 5 percent of the production, but which consists of those who

express themselves through the news media and who have demonstrated against cooperation. Now, the healthy trend among the other cane, coffee and cotton growers is to oust these spurious representative groups. Among the cotton growers there has already been a change of leadership, with more modern businessmen who are willing to plant and not boycott. The process has proven to be the only viable expedient, and viability is an argument for very strong consideration. The method of generating economic chaos, used by some to achieve popular insurrection and by others to bring about a military coup has lost force, partly because those who propose it (both the insurrection and the coup) have not found anyone to carry them out. This is because the people and the Armed Forces are on the side of the process, and recognize that it is the only means for enabling El Salvador to have the happy future that is logically due it.

2909

CSO: 3010/1032

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE COUNTRY'S FOOD PRODUCTION

FL061902 Bridgetown CANA in English 2039 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 6 Mar (CANA)--Grenada's Agriculture Minister George Louison has said here the government is determined to intensify its drive to increase food production in the country.

Food was a priority, said Mr Louison, adding that the government intended to boost the agriculture sector by providing better services to farmers so that they might be encouraged to grow more and also by seeking additional export markets for crops.

The government was already looking for new markets for cocoa, nutmeg and banana --the traditional export crops--and new crops such as egg plants and pumpkins.

Later this month a national emulation programme is to be launched, aimed at honouring workers in the forefront of the effort to increase production, and Mr Louison said that would help boost food output.

Among the first batch of workers to be honoured in the inaugural programme will be some from the agricultural sector, "because we recognize the tremendous importance that these workers play in the overall development of our economy."

Mr Louison also said that the government would soon expand a number of programmes launched last year which was designated the "year of agriculture and agro-industries."

The government has obtained a loan from the Barbados based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to continue work on 15.5 miles of feeder roads started last year in the rural area of St Andrews, he said.

It was also trying to find sources of cheaper fertilizers for farmers, and was able to obtain 1,000 tonnes recently.

The government hoped to be able to bring in other kinds of inputs and equipment for the sector at better prices than previously secured in the traditional buying places. There were plans too to expand other programmes undertaken by state enterprises, such as the Grenada Farms Corporation established by government to help in the agriculture production drive.

CSO: 3025/1049

COARD ANNOUNCES 1982-83 BUDGET, TAX INCENTIVES

Agriculture, Tourism Stressed

FL100006 Bridgetown CANA in English 2351 GMT 9 Mar 82

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 9 Mar (CANA)--The Grenada Government today presented a 214 million East Caribbean dollar (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) 1982-83 budget, in which it raised taxes on a range of non-essential items, and offered tax incentives to companies expanding their operations in the island.

At a convention centre in Grand Ansa, five miles from here, Finance Minister Bernard Coard announced capital expenditure totalling 134 million dollars and recurrent expenditure of 80 million for the fiscal year. The 1981-82 budget had totalled 160 million dollars.

A large chunk of government's revenue will be coming from customs and excise duties (34.2 million dollars), inland revenue (22.9 million) and taxes on companies (8.4), Mr Coard said.

The government will be spending heavily on agriculture (28 million dollars) and tourism (to be boosted through a 60 million dollar allocation for an international airport project) in 1982-83, the finance minister told Grenada community leaders and delegates from several countries here to attend celebrations marking the third anniversary of the revolution which brought the New Jewel Movement (NJM) to power.

The government is raising the company tax from 50 to 55 percent, but businesses stepping up investment here will end up paying a tax of 40 percent, according to Coard.

The government also announced higher taxes on a range of luxury and semi-luxury items, including video cassettes, television sets, air conditioners, jewelry, and on refrigerators, cameras and liquor. Coard said the government hoped to collect 620,000 dollars from these hikes.

Also affected are imports of tinned foodstuffs such as jams and jellies which have locally produced equivalents.

Coard said education and health would together be getting the single largest slice of recurrent expenditure.

Economy Growth

FL102320 Bridgetown CANA in English 2315 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 10 Mar (CANA)--Grenada is projecting three per cent economic growth this year, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Bernard Coard said in his 1982 budget speech here.

He said the Grenada economy grew in 1981 by two per cent.

Coard said however that achievement of the projected 1982 growth rate will call for tremendous sacrifice on the part of Grenadians.

The 214 million dollar (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) budget envisages capital spending of 134 million dollars, with recurrent expenditure totalling 80 million.

Coard said the government was hopeful of raising 68 million dollars in revenue--money collected from taxes, etc--to balance off its recurrent expenditure.

Of this amount custom and excise duty should net about 34.32 million dollars, inland revenue 22.9 million, revenue under post office earnings 2.02 million and 8.06 million under finance tax, made up of 5.2 million in foreign exchange tax, 2.2 million in profits to Grenada from the East Caribbean currency authority, and .69 million dollars from other small items.

Mr Coard also outlined a number of new taxation measures aimed at cutting back on unnecessary imports from outside of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and on those products which can be produced locally, but are imported into the country.

He announced 10 per cent increases in consumption duties on imported soft drinks, 20 per cent increases on tinned and bottled fruits, vegetables and jams, and 15 per cent increases on men's and women's garments.

Mr Coard said that used tires which were previously imported tax free would have to pay five per cent consumption duties. A similar amount was announced for liquor, but none on cigarettes because of government's fears about smuggling.

Luxury and semi-luxury items have been given increases ranging from 10 percent on cameras, video-cassettes and cosmetics, excluding toothpastes, to 25 per cent on refrigerators and deep freezers over 12 cubic feet in size, and gold and silver jewelry.

Government would also be imposing for the first time a 25-dollar annual television license fee in addition to 15 per cent tax increases on television sets and television cameras, according to Mr Coard.

Package tax will increase by 50 per cent per unit. Stamp duty on internal transactions is projected to raise 250,000 dollars in revenue and together with the estimated 620,000 dollars expected to be netted with the other measures, some one million dollars is expected to be collected by government from these taxes.

Mr Coard also announced that the Grenada Government would be insisting that all insurance companies operating in the country will have to buy international airport bonds with 10 percent of their total premium income.

The finance minister noted that in the more developed countries (MDC's) of the English-speaking Caribbean some 30-40 per cent of deposit of banks have to be placed in the central bank and said in the case of Grenada the government would require banks operating here to deposit 10 per cent of their earnings with the treasury.

The rate of interest on such deposits, he said, would be determined by the treasury after consultation with the banks.

These funds would be utilized exclusively for the purpose of capital projects directly related toward developing the economy, he added.

Mr Coard also announced that government is to implement a special type of measure "a carrot and stick device" aimed at the private sector, with a view to getting the business community to invest more in the economy.

Under the scheme, company taxes this year would be increased from 50 to 55 per cent, but those companies which choose to expand on their existing activities or set up new business activities in hotel expansion or the construction of a new plant would receive a rebate such that they would only end up paying 40 per cent in company tax.

CSO: 4025/1049

BISHOP ADDRESSES AREA LAWYERS CONFERENCE HERE

FL112130 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 11 Mar (CANA)--Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop [passage indistinct] entrenched by putting them on the statute book.

Addressing a conference of lawyers from the Caribbean, Britain, the United States, and Canada, Mr Bishop said the struggle to have some human rights protected must now centre on ensuring that laws which brought the working people benefits must remain on the statute books, or, if taken away, are restored.

Other laws should be included which would ensure the expansion of new rights, such as housing, employment and education, Mr Bishop suggested.

The two-day conference--"Human Rights in the 80's: A Caribbean Perspective"--ending here today was sponsored by the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) and the Grenada Government, itself under fire for alleged human rights violations.

Mr Bishop said that only the struggles of the working people had brought about human rights protection. "...Every single important right under the law which today is taken for granted in many countries...came after a struggle by the working people," he remarked.

He listed among them the right to form trade unions and political parties and the right to vote.

Law, Prime Minister Bishop added, develops around the prevailing economic realities of the age and its first and foremost an expression of the balance of forces between the oppressor and the oppressed.

Prime Minister Bishop said it was the duty and obligation of progressive lawyers to take a stand and to deal with the prevailing economic realities which he described as frightening.

He noted the "alarming escalation" of the arms race in the United States in midst of increasing world hunger, poverty, unemployment, disease and illiteracy.

The leftist leader also cited a number of examples of continued U.S. aggression against progressive countries and national liberation movements.

The prospects for war are real, he warned.

Lawyers from Montserrat, St Vincent, St Lucia, the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago were among the delegates.

CSO: 3025/1049

MESSAGE FROM FIDEL CASTRO

FLO90041 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] President of the State Council and Government of the Republic of Cuba, Fidel Castro, has sent a message to the people of Grenada on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Grenada revolution. In a statement addressed to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Fidel says that the achievements of the Grenada revolution are the result of a self-sacrificing effort of the heroic people of Grenada.

It said: This is so despite the fact that Grenadians have had to defend their conquests from all the imperialist attempts to stranglehold the country economically, and the continuing threats of aggression that represent the American administration's warmongering position toward the progressive countries of the zone. It said that under the firm guidance of the New Jewel Movement the Grenada revolution strengthens and consolidates itself based on wide popular participation.

It said that the Government and people of Cuba share all these successes with Grenada. Fidel's message noted that Grenada has maintained its active contribution to the struggle for peace and detente on the basis of a constructive policy that has widened its prestige and has riddened [as received] its admiration and respect of all the peoples and progressive and democratic forces in the world.

The statement said that the Cuban people appreciate with great satisfaction the dynamic and increasing development of the relations of friendship, fraternity and collaboration of both countries. The Cuban people are convinced that those relations are strengthening to benefit our peoples and the friendship and solidarity between the Caribbean and Latin America. It noted that the Cuban people thank deeply the solidarity that their Grenadian brothers have expressed toward their revolution.

Fidel wished the greatest success to the people of Grenada and to Prime Minister Bishop, personally, in the struggle for progress and welfare, and reiterated the solidarity and support of the people of Cuba.

CSO: 3025/1049

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE WITH COSTA RICA--Kingston, Jamaica, 5 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica is to receive technical assistance from Costa Rica to pull the banana industry here out of its depression in exchange for Jamaican help to develop the Costa Rican coconut industry, the Jamaica Agriculture Ministry has announced. This cooperation plan came out of a visit to Costa Rica last week by the Jamaican agriculture minister, Percival Broderick, for a look at the technology and production systems utilised in that country's banana industry. The Costa Ricans export annually about 1.5 million tonnes of bananas to North America and Europe, way above the output of this country even before hurricane Allen of 1980 destroyed banana cultivations here. The Jamaica banana industry has not yet recovered from the ravages of hurricane Allen of 1980, and shipments last year to Britain, where there is a market for 150,000 tonnes, totalled 20,000 tonnes. There are plans for increased production to increase exports to the British market within the next five years. Said the Agriculture Ministry: "Assurances were given that Costa Rica would provide technical assistance and training programmes for technicians in the banana industry while Jamaica would reciprocate in helping Costa Rica with their coconut industry." The ministry said that there were also discussions on the possible trade in beef. Costa Rica is a large producer of beef. [Text] [FL051840 Bridgetown CANA in English 1820 GMT 5 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1051

FAULTS IN 'METRO' OPERATION OUTLINED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Feb 82 pp 5-A, 27-A

[Text] The subway is already showing signs of "fatigue" because of the overuse to which it has been subjected, and the number of trains and of qualified personnel is inadequate. Moreover, there are no realistic programs to provide preventive and corrective maintenance for the trains on a periodic basis.

The foregoing was stated yesterday by Jose Maldonado Perez, chairman of the Press Committee of the Mass Transit System Workers Union, when he underscored that "the delays that the users experience day after day are in no way the fault of the workers."

The reasons are the lack of trains to meet the growing need created by the expansion of lines 4 and 5; the scarcity of spare parts, tools and safety equipment; and the shortage of qualified personnel to the extent that the old hands have been forced to assume the work load created by the extension [sic] of lines 4 and 5.

He also stated that in the past 3 years, the Mass Transit System has purchased German, Japanese and French equipment without training the personnel to handle it.

The "fatigue" of the equipment is a source of concern for the workers, and the executive committee of the union has officially requested of engineer Julian Diaz Arias, the subway's director general, that operations outside the normal schedule be suspended, and that trusted personnel abstain from operating the trains.

Maldonado Perez pointed out all these things when announcing the opening of the Fifth General Congress of delegates of the subway workers union, which will last for 3 days starting today. The congress will work out the details of a petition that the cited union will present on the occasion of the review of its overall working conditions in March.

The spokesman noted, on the other hand, that the congress will take place in a sort of tense climate because Fernando Espino Arevalo, former secretary general accused of defrauding the union of 12 million pesos, has threatened the executive committee. Espino is currently the public relations secretary of the Federation of Government Workers Unions (FSTSE).

8414

CSO: 3010/981

TALKS ON ARUBAN INDEPENDENCE DEADLOCKED

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 6 Feb 82 p 3

[Article: "Talks on Separate Aruba Run Aground"]

[Text] The Hague, 6 February -- The discussions of the Committee of Seven, under the leadership of Mr B. Biesheuvel, which, pursuant to the directions of the government of the realm, studied the consequences of the possible independence of Aruba, have run aground. This was announced by the minister plenipotentiary of the Antilles in the Hague, R. Casseres.

Problems arose when Dutch members of the committee wanted to put the ultimate situation of the Antilles on the agenda, and in this context also wanted to talk about independence for the other islands. As a matter of fact, in the committee's mandate it is noted that the possible independence of Aruba could have an impact on the ultimate situation of the other Antillean islands.

Committee members Miguel Pourier (Bonaire), Jacky Voges (Windward Islands) and Michael Gorsira (Curacao) believe that the determination of the ultimate situation should be left completely open. In this, they are taking the position of Antillean Prime Minister Don Martina who last year, at the summit conference in the Hague, announced that it does not make any sense to talk about the ultimate situation yet, because each of the islands still has to make a decision about this on its own.

The three Dutch members of the committee, Biesheuvel, Professor A.J.F. Kobben and Th. Meijs believe that in accordance with the committee's mandate, the independence of the other five islands should also be discussed. The relevant passage in the mandate reads: "to study the position and ultimate situation the other islands may be placed in, together or separately, as a result of the independence of Aruba."

The other five islands have let it be known repeatedly that they do not want independence -- at least not in the short term.

The position of the seventh committee member, Hendrik Croes from Aruba, is midway between the positions of the Dutch and of the other Antillean committee members. No date has been set yet for the resumption of negotiations within the Biesheuvel committee.

Minister plenipotentiary Casseres expressed the hope that there will be a follow-up, in spite of the problems. Tomorrow, the Dutch committee members will be coming back. According to Casseres, the failure of these negotiations does not have to have an impact on the current government formation in the Antilles. However, during the last few days he did seem to detect some polarization between the MEP [Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo] of Betico Croes and the MAN [Movimiento Antiyas Nobo] of Don Martina, the two parties which have each produced a government informateur.

8463

CSO: 3105/101

JGRN'S SERGIO RAMIREZ COMMENTS ON THREATS TO REVOLUTION

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Feb 82 pp 76-79

[Interview with Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, by Mario G. del Cueto; date and place not given]

[Text] Two hours before departing for "Book Saturday" on which occasion his latest novel, "Did the Blood Frighten You?", was to be introduced, and he would autograph hundreds of copies, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the National Reconstruction Government Junta [JGRN] of Nicaragua, agreed to an interview with BOHEMIA at a Protocol Department residence. A revolutionary intellectual who has given up his tools as a writer, at least temporarily, while his duties as a governor are required of him ("a task to be given priority, of course," as he himself declares), in the conversation with Ramirez, a smooth, dynamic one without a prior list of questions, the political issue necessarily prevails.

In the context of the present time, we inquire about his view of the recent formation of the self-styled Central American Democratic Community comprised, to date, of only three governments from the area (Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica), which in the opinion of observers is nothing but another maneuver of the imperialists within their aggressive plans:

"Our Foreign Ministry is studying the matter. I could give only personal impressions....In Central America it is very difficult for anyone, even if it be for negative purposes, to attempt to create a community, through a legal instrument, that would leave out any other countries in the area. At the present time, it is impossible to leave out Nicaragua; not only because of its geographical position (Nicaragua is a vital territory for any circulation of goods or persons), but also owing to the status of political prestige which we hold in the world. It is very odd that this legal instrument should be signed at a time when the new government has not yet taken office and the outgoing government holds it; when an electoral process is approaching in Costa Rica and when the situation in El Salvador has not been determined, with the elections called by the Junta being increasingly challenged by larger contingents of the world's democratic forces. Only the right-wing elements will participate therein, but it is a well known fact that the popular forces are on the side of those who are fighting with arms. We also find

it noteworthy that, amid all the rhetoric in the documents which have been signed, mention should be made in them of "continental solidarity." To us, this smacks of TIAR (Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty); to us, this smacks of armed integration, and intervention in the area. If this is the case, we believe that this supposed alliance, instead of helping to create an atmosphere of stability, will, rather, prove to be a destabilizing element over the long term; because, I insist, so long as Nicaragua is not taken into account, so long as Central America is not taken into account as a global reality, there will be very little progress in that direction. Such instruments will serve to have the negative forces which do not want a democratic change attempt to revert to situations from the past. I wish to voice my concern regarding Nicaragua; in addition to studying the document, we are doing so in a state of alert."

With regard to the presidential succession in Honduras, Ramirez reiterates the JGRN's desire to find in the neighboring country a counterpart, "someone with whom we can reach a serious understanding, an understanding that must be binding on everyone in Honduras. Up until now, we have had excellent direct relations with President Policarpo Paz, with members of his staff and with members of the Armed Forces Higher Council; but we cannot consider this as if it were with the entire Honduran Government. There are military chiefs in the border areas who are overtly conspiring with the Somocist counterrevolutionary gangs, which they are aiding. There are in the Honduran State Security agencies people who are supplying the counterrevolutionaries with falsified documents and lending them logistical support; and this is not a trustworthy situation for us. On the one hand, the Honduran minister of interior denies the spurious and stupid report (conveyed by multinational agencies) that we had assassinated 200 Miskitos, crossing the border; and, on the other, the foreign minister comes out with the statement that the reports are correct. Not until we have a clear, firm voice regarding our relations from the Honduran side shall we be more trusting, and have less need for a heavy guard such as the one we are keeping at present on the northern border."

We mention the ties with Venezuela, and how the government has proven incapable of responding reliably to the charges made by Comdr Tomas Borge concerning the plot recently discovered planning an attack against leaders of the revolution and against major economic targets, in which diplomatic officials of various nations of the area and of Venezuela appeared to be implicated.

SRM states: "When we had all the threads of the plot in our hands, when we had all the evidence and the results of the interrogations of those captured, we sent our foreign minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, to Venezuela, in order to explain the situation in person to President Luis Herrera Campins. This act of ours was considered a mark of political maturity and responsibility, which has always typified our international relations....

[Question] Still, up until the time of this interview (we comment), the surveillance is being kept at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Caracas....

[Answer] Yes, I think that, in such instances, there are different internal mechanisms in the government, some more provocative, others less provocative and still others more conciliatory.... Our position continues to be mature; it continues to be responsible and clearcut. There was a communique from the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry which was a rebuff, in response to a note of ours; but we emphasize our initial note backed by Tomas Borge's charges.... Now then, we are of the opinion that this is a matter confined to individuals who are protected by their diplomatic status for joining a conspiracy against Nicaragua; but we do not consider the Venezuelan Government implicated in any way, much less President Luis Herrera Campins. I think that the situation has been surmounted thus far. I have read some statements made by Foreign Minister Zambrano, wherein it appears to me he is attempting to reestablish an objective, cordial quality in the relations that we had before the incident. Insofar as we are concerned, we are willing to continue with these relations, and to leave the matter as an incident which we wish never to be repeated again.

In a diversion from the conversation, we mention the position of the reactionary newspaper LA PRENSA, from whose premises a shooting attack was made on a popular demonstration protesting against the newspaper's reports on the exposed plot, minimizing it or attaching little interest to it.

Ramirez says: "What did they want, that the people not leave their houses, angry over the provocation? Among those provocations was the publication of a complaint to the French minister of foreign affairs over the sale of French weapons to Nicaragua, something which is clearly an act of treason.... Those were the first bullets aimed against the people to be seen since the overthrow of Somoza.... Moreover, Nicaragua, as a sovereign country, does not have to render an account to anyone concerning whose weapons it is purchasing, or who is giving them.

[Question] What do you think about Pezullo's replacement by a new American ambassador?

[Answer] We think that, to a large extent, the arrival of a new ambassador, while it does not make a qualitative improvement in the deteriorated atmosphere of relations with the United States, at least introduces a new formal element for normalization, and we observe that in a positive sense. Furthermore, the United States has given the "placet" [approval] for our new ambassador. This exchange of ambassadors at least puts us in the position of a new plane on which the future of our relations will start to be discussed. Obviously, the relations with the United States do not depend solely on an exchange of ambassadors. Moreover, there is a series of complex factors aggravating the situation. For example, the fact that the United States has already given clear signs that it is beginning to block our requests for credit from the World Bank and the International Development Bank [IDB]; as occurred a few weeks ago, when the American delegate voted against a loan for the country's municipalities and, in the IDB, vetoed a special fund of half a million dollars. These are obvious signs of economic aggression. I repeat, I do not believe that a mere exchange of ambassadors will help to improve the

situation much; but, as I have noted, it is at least a formal element. There is an agenda which we have to discuss with the United States: in the first place, the situation of the counterrevolutionary camps on American territory. Until that problem is solved, it will be impossible to improve the quality of the relations. Secondly, what will their position be toward our requests for loans from the international agencies? Not only have they blocked the loans coming from the United States, but now they are interfering in the multinational sources that could provide us with financial aid. Meanwhile, we shall continue to appeal to the international agencies, to continue exposing these maneuvers. The basis for formal relations with the United States must be respect for our revolution. That is a matter of principle: respect for our independence, respect for our sovereignty, respect for our right to have relations with all the nations of the world, and to receive support, material resources and even arms. Those are "sine qua non" conditions, not only in our relations with the United States, but those with any country in the world.

As for the international assistance, "which is highly positive, it is being carried out extensively by many countries, even those of a different ideological persuasion." As Ramirez states, there is the backing from the socialist countries, with technical cooperation, farm machinery, lines of credit, spare parts, food....They include the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and the GDR; as well as the assistance from the West European countries: the FRG, the Netherlands, France and Spain. Mitterrand's advent to power represented a qualitative improvement in the relations with Western Europe. The list would be endless: there is the secure, generous backing of the Scandinavian countries; the support from the Socialist International and, among the Latin American countries, "Venezuela (with the benefits of oil) and the constant help from Cuba and Mexico."

"It is this range of international action, with a variety of sources, that the United States is attempting to undermine, with lies and ridiculous tales of our conspiracies in Central America."

[Question] And in the maelstrom of these difficulties, what are the prospects for 1982, which you have so accurately termed "the year of unity against aggression"?

[Answer] Much of what we have discussed is part of a climate the climax of which would be direct aggression. At the present time, we are maneuvering to neutralize the acts of terrorism. We have a State Security system which the enemy is attempting to disparage, but which works in silence, actually with great morale. We always attempt to retain the initiative, and the offensive, mobilizing the masses. Of course, the difficulties will become increasingly greater but, as part of the correction of those difficulties, we are seeking a positive relationship with the United States Government itself. Our solution is not a break in relations but rather, insofar as possible, to bring about a return to good sense on the part of those who run the United States internal policy, making them realize that a direct conflict involving Nicaragua would not be a conflict limited to its borders, but rather one that would spread throughout the entire Central American area; in other words,

any aggression against Nicaragua would be an immediate element of instability insofar as the rest of the region is concerned. I repeat, there will be problems....

The country's economic situation is also the object of reflection. Sergio Ramirez explains it, stating that the difficulties in this area stem from Somocism, the legacy of which still survives in part. "We have gained experience and maturity, for making the country forge ahead. Nicaragua's economic crisis is somewhat dissociated from the one suffered by other nations of the area. In attempting to solve it, the country is not resorting to the traditional methods, but is, rather, using the resources of the people's power for the benefit of the masses. The prescriptions of imperialism, with its International Monetary Fund, are not a part of our system. We do not accept loans subject to conditions. We shall apply the solutions based on the country's own reality. The first thing that we have done is to reestablish the production of basic consumer goods, especially food. We can claim that the country is now producing all the food that it needs, which was not the case before the war, when tons of rice and beans were being imported. Now, the rice production has been stabilized; sufficient corn is being produced, and the sorghum production is also sufficient. We have progressed in milk production; we have upheld the workers' real wages; and the inflation rate has not shot up as it has in other countries of the area. It has been kept at tolerable levels. We are striving intensely to lessen or eliminate unemployment. We expect an increase in agricultural and livestock production. The coffee, cotton and sugar cane crops will be excellent this year, with a high output. There will be difficulties in industrial production, but I think that we shall maintain last year's levels. In short, unless some unusual situation occurs, the economy will grow in 1982."

We embark on another area: education and culture. Ramirez himself declares: "In the first place, the most important cultural phenomenon of the revolution is the revolution itself." And he goes on to say: "In this entire context, we are attempting to bring culture and education to the heights to which we have brought health....We shall not be able to solve the problem of the country's social infrastructure and social services by injecting money into the budget, but rather by organizing the masses to cope with it. There are truly massive problems. In the case of the school education, which reaches nearly a million inhabitants (out of a population of less than 3 million), it is a very high index. In the accelerated primary-level popular schools alone, wherein continuity is given to those who were taught to read and write in the heroic crusades, we have an enrollment of nearly 200,000, most of which is in the rural districts and in the underprivileged districts; and in the nation's urban areas, it is assumed that these individuals will complete the fourth grade of primary school, and subsequently enter the regular educational cycle. This year, the university population will increase. Many of the students are now entering intermediate-level technical schools, with the backing of the Soviet Union and the GDR. A genuine transformation is taking place in the people's education, giving them another channel which they did not have previously.

"We have dealt with culture from a massive standpoint. We shall not deny anyone the opportunity for access to culture insofar as we can guarantee them such access. By lending mass dimensions to culture, as in the case of the poetry workshops, the theater groups and the dance groups (since I have been asked the question), we are not attempting to create a series of professional performers but, rather, to give the Nicaraguan people a sensitivity toward art which is also a sensitivity toward the revolution. And this is an important phenomenon. Nicaragua has been, and is a country with a traditional artistic sensitivity; and we want to organize and continue to evoke that sensitivity. We are also witnessing significant progress in the realm of culture. To be sure, we must view it as part of the plans of a poor country. We do not think that we shall solve the problems of culture in Nicaragua by using vast amounts of money for large theater halls, large concert halls or large ultra-modern museums. We do not have those opportunities available. We shall cause culture to be disseminated everywhere, and give the people the opportunity to create freely, without being subjected to particular artistic patterns, and to convey and receive culture, as well as to have an international viewpoint. We intend to train people to consider the world from a contemporary standpoint. The interest in culture is becoming increasingly visible. Literary workshops have been organized in factories and farming communities, in work centers and in schools. Young people and adults have become organized in manners that will afford them artistic sensitivity, and they are being taught different writing techniques. There is currently an argument, which we consider very healthy, regarding which type of literary technique the students in those workshops should receive: whether a single choice should be offered, involving what is known as externalized poetry, or whether they should be given an opportunity to choose. We believe that, from now on, there should be freedom in creativity, and that access should be afforded to many different types of expression. Nicaragua has an abundant poetic tradition, and that is a constant incentive. As for music, I think that the revolution has equal opportunities for opening the gates and allowing both popular music and the so-called cultured music to mingle; because the only way in which we in Nicaragua can achieve cultured music is by starting with popular music. Are not the compositions of Chopin, Beethoven and the great Russian composers filled with popular melodies?

We return to the tools of the intellectual. We ask him: "Will you give them up, will you continue to write novels?" He replies: "It is very difficult; the tasks of government also require creativity, imagination and dedication, which are the three elements that a writer needs. But I have put them in the service of the revolution now. The revolution demands 14, 16 or I don't know how many hours of work per day."

He concludes by saying: "I believe that there is a type of literary or artistic sensitivity which is also political sensitivity per se. During these years of revolution, my chief personal treasure has been to enhance my insight as a writer, particularly in contact with the people, with the masses and with the people's speech. To me, the best part of my task as a governor is when I have an opportunity to go into the outlying sections of the country, to talk with the people, and to become involved in their problems, outside of the premises of offices."

He smiles. "I think that, when this task that the revolution has given me ends, I shall be more prepared to be a better writer than I was before." He had previously written 11 books, and the latest of them, entitled "Did the Blood Frighten You?", is regarded by critics as one of the most important works of Latin American story telling.

2909

CSO: 3010/1031

BRIEFS

U.S. ELECTION SUPPORT CHARGED--Castries, St Lucia, 5 Mar (CANA)--Doubts have been raised here over St Lucia's participation in talks with United States President Ronald Reagan when he visits Barbados on a working vacation early next month. This follows a visit to St Lucia by the second secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Barbados, Barbara Owens, for talks with interim Prime Minister Michael Pilgrim and other political leaders here on the island's representation at the talks. Addressing a meeting of the Progressive Labour Party in Castries last night, Mr Pilgrim, deputy leader of the party, said he was "extremely disturbed" at the position being taken by the U.S. Government. He said that he was informed by the U.S. official that he would not be invited to the talks, being head of an interim government, and with the island on the threshold of general elections. "The U.S. representative said that inviting me to the talks would be perceived as interfering in the political election campaign, for my presence at the talks would give the Progressive Labour Party, an advantage over the United Workers Party [UWP]," Mr Pilgrim told the meeting. He added: "The U.S. position has brought to light their interference in the campaign by showing indirect support for the UWP in the elections, and I am sure if John Compton was head of the interim government he would have been selected for the talks." [Excerpt] [FL052000Bridgetown CANA in English 1925 GMT 5 Mar 82]

CS0: 3025/1051

BRIEFS

VENEZUELA-GUYANA BORDER ISSUE--Georgetown, Guyana, 5 Mar (CANA)--St Vincent's prime minister, Milton Cato, has expressed full support to Guyana in its border issue with Venezuela, which claims territory west of the Essequibo. "We are fully behind Guyana and feel she should not surrender one inch of her territory to Venezuela or any other country," he said before leaving Guyana yesterday after a two-day visit. Venezuela has a long-standing claim to five-eighths of Guyana. Efforts to find a solution have failed and Venezuela said it would not be renewing an agreement which put the dispute on ice for 12 years when it expires later this year. Mr Cato said the Venezuela claim was among the issues discussed with President Forbes Burnham at Kimbia. They also discussed trade between the two countries, education and developments in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Mr Cato said Guyana will remove constraints on the use of Vincentian ships in bilateral trade. There is to be an intensification in trade between the two countries in sugar, rice, lumber, carrots, and peanuts, he reported. Guyana is also to provide places at institutions of higher education for Vincentians. Mr Cato was made an honorary member of the Guyana National Service (GNS). Before his departure he took the salute at a guard of honour with his GNS uniform. [Text] [FLO51750 Bridgetown CANA in English 1736 GMT 5 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1051

BRIEFS

CUBAN SPORTS DELEGATION VISIT--Paramaribo, Suriname, 9 Mar (CANA)--A four-man Cuban delegation left here today for Trinidad and Tobago after bringing the Ministry of Sports and the National Olympic Committee up to date on Havana's plans for staging the Central American and Caribbean games from August 7 to 18. Delegation leader Alberto Puig de la Barca told reporters Cuba was expecting delegations from 25 countries in the region, the largest from Mexico, Colombia and Puerto Rico. The Cubans--who include Tomas Martincala, Alfredo Estaban Casanamener and Mario Foris Montes--have visited Guyana for similar discussions. They have planned trips to Curacao, Venezuela, Barbados and Antigua. [Text]
[FLO92209 Bridgetown CANA in English 2155 GMT 9 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1051

PRIME MINISTER ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS PROBLEMS

FL111835 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 11 Mar (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago will move shortly to stem the stepped up flow of illegal immigrants into this oil-rich republic, Prime Minister George Chambers has said.

The prime minister was responding to questions from villagers on the squatting problems at Enterprise, a central Trinidad community Mr Chambers was touring.

Mr Chambers said that "within recent times there had been a high incidence of illegal immigrants here. They have been coming "in droves", he said and aggravating the squatting problems.

The situation had been discussed by the National Security Council and "firm action will be taken to stop the illegal flow of immigrants," the prime minister told the villagers.

The prime minister said the foreigners were coming by motor vessel and were landing at undisclosed destinations in Tobago and then using the inter island ferry to come to Trinidad.

Government, he said, was moving to regularise the squatters up to a particular cut-off date, but he reminded them all that squatting was against the law.

Mr Chambers acknowledged that there was a housing shortage in Trinidad and Tobago, and promised to do "whatever we can" to rectify the situation.

He said housing was governments number one priority and that there were now over 29,000 housing units in varying stages of completion.

"We understand the problem. We were elected to make laws. It is illegal to squat and even though we sympathise with the people, who are squatting, the law is the law," he stated.

Mr Chambers said: "One can be tolerant with a certain level of squatting in a certain way. But more and more people are becoming adventurous in squatting." Government projects aimed at improving the country, improving the way of life of citizens, many of these projects are delayed because people refuse to move. You can't hold up a whole country because 12 people squat. You can't do that."

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